

TURDAY APRIL 6 1996

talks to Andrew Pierce

THE TIMES



No. 65,548

30P

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



MATTHEW PARRIS

Why Latin America is rejecting Catholicism
PAGE 14

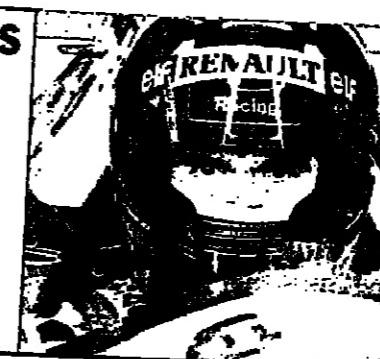


Grandmother to the gentry

Elizabeth Longford reflects on the pleasures of extended families
PAGE 13

MATHEMATICS

Are there any problems left?
PAGE 12



BANK HOLIDAY SPORT

Argentine Grand Prix: Hill wins four in a row
Rangers beat Celtic in the semi-final of the Scottish cup
SECTION 2

Hereditary peers 'will lose vote'

Blair to inflict instant curb on the Lords

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers — whom he described as "Tory voting fodder" — and party strategists are considering bringing in a short Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of a Labour government.

More radical reform of the Lords might have to wait until a second or third Labour Parliament, so the curb is partly intended to reassure activists and prevent party splits in the early stages of a Blair administration.

There are hundreds of Tory hereditary peers, compared with 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrats, giving the Conservatives a massive built-in majority in the Lords. Mr Blair, who recently declared that some were there merely because they were the descendants of royal mistresses, intends to reverse that, although he has made plain that those who provide good service to Parliament could become life peers and continue voting. The law lords would also remain.

Well-known figures who would be disenfranchised by such a law include the Lords Trimble, Viscount Cranborne, Lord Strathclyde, the Tory chief whip, along with the Labour peers Lord Ponsonby and Lord Melchett. The Labour leadership has yet to decide whether they should be given the right — at present

Tories accused of smear tactics

A Tory attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington appeared to have founded as American commentators professed themselves unimpressed by a document prepared by Conservative Central Office highlighting his "un-American activities". Labour called the document "an outrageous smear".
Page 2

Archdeacon's support... 2
Peter Riddell... 14
Leading article... 15

denied them — to vote in parliamentary elections.

Mr Blair's determination to pre-empt any party dispute was shown two weeks ago when he announced that he intended to ballot all 365,000 party members on Labour's manifesto. That move was designed to bind in the whole party into his programme to modernise Labour policy.

The hereditary peers plan is similarly intended to deflect leftwingers who might demand more radical measures at a time when the party is concentrating on complicated legislation for a Scottish parliament.

The idea has widespread support among Labour MPs, particularly the Left, and it is likely to be endorsed by many of the smaller parties. Labour strategists believe that even some Tories might back the move, and they are confident

of getting the measures through both the Commons and the Lords.

Sources also point out that once hereditary peers lost the vote, they would not be able to block a Scottish Parliament, which could have a difficult passage through the Lords.

But some MPs argue in favour of delay, saying that peers could be threatened with draconian measures if they failed to back other legislation on constitutional matters.

The shadow home office team is now preparing timetables for all the constitutional legislation that Mr Blair intends to introduce, including a Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and regional chambers. Shadow ministers are said to be drawing up three separate timetables, allowing for a hung Parliament, a slim majority, or a large mandate.

Little work, however, is being done on plans to hold a referendum on electoral reform. Labour also hopes to placate the left by offering a pledge for legislation on the first stage for elected regional assemblies in a first Parliament. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, has already given an undertaking that each region will be able to vote in a referendum on whether it wants greater autonomy.

But leftwingers are worried that legislation will be deferred to a second Parliament and Mr Straw is being pressed to back early legislation to allow for the setting up of elected regional chambers after a referendum.



Lynne Symonds, a Norfolk teacher, being made a chief of the Manprusi tribe in Ghana at the weekend. Mrs Symonds was honoured for her help in providing books and raising money for the tribal school. Page 9. Leading article, page 15

Ulster is still at war, says former IRA terrorist

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY KELLY, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, declared yesterday in a rare public speech that Northern Ireland was in "a war situation".

And, as thousands of Republicans gathered for Easter Rising Commemoration parades on both sides of the border, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was accused of caving into London and failing to provide the right leadership. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, told a Londonderry rally: "Mr Bruton has not so far risen to the challenge presented by British duplicity and bad faith."

"If the British Government had not squandered year and a half of the IRA cessation for selfish party political reasons, we might have been well on the way to the resolution of the age-old conflict between Britain and Ireland," he said.

Mr Kelly, who was convicted for his part in the first

Provisional IRA in 1973, said that the movement's goals had not changed: "We want British withdrawal. Partition must end. It has not worked."

In a sign that the IRA is unlikely to restore its ceasefire in the short-term, Mr Kelly insisted that Britain must give "clear and unambiguous public assurances" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks.

■ A Labour government would abolish powers to ban terrorist suspects from the British mainland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary said.

Korea alert as troops move in

American troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarized zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula. About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. Page 7

PO takes off

The Post Office could become Britain's biggest travel agent if a trial in London is successful. Thousands of branches could sell cut-price air tickets and have computer systems to enable customers to fix up their travel documents. Page 36

Leading article, page 15

Mexicans die in US border crash

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CRAMMED into a smuggler's stolen van, seven suspected illegal immigrants with hopes of a new life in America were killed when their vehicle overturned in a ditch while fleeing the US Border Patrol.

The crash, less than a week after a videotape of police beating two immigrants was shown around the world, has brought Mexican anger over America's treatment of its citizens to a crescendo even though officials insist the vehicle was not being chased.

"Christ's parents were immigrants," read one banner. Latino politicians attacked Pete Wilson, the state Governor re-elected in 1994 on an anti-immigration platform.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry issued an official complaint, its second in six days, and demanded an investigation by American authorities.

one believed to be paralysed from the neck down.

As news of Saturday's tragedy reached Los Angeles, a mood of sorrow at a rally for the victims of last week's televised beating turned to one of outrage. A 6,000-strong crowd chanted slogans, waved placards and brought suits of the city to a standstill.

"Christ's parents were immigrants," read one banner. Latino politicians attacked Pete Wilson, the state Governor re-elected in 1994 on an anti-immigration platform.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry issued an official complaint, its second in six days, and demanded an investigation by American authorities.

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15

RAF gives the Brylcreem boys a bit more polish

By ADRIAN LEE

THE RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, senior service officers fear. Once upon a time, young RAF officers were so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem boys. Now they speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom.

To rectify matters, the latest 100 recruits at Cranwell are to be schooled in the finer points of life by order of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff.

Sir Michael called for oral communication classes at the service's officer training college when he heard that

trainees responded with grunts of "yeah" and "OK" to polite inquiries from visiting superiors about their course. Worse was to follow when it emerged that the recruits, who are regarded as among the cream of the armed forces, did not know a foxtrot from a waltz.

An RAF source said yesterday: "This all stemmed from a visit to the mess by two very senior officers. When they asked the cadets how things were going, they got monosyllabic answers. It was all very embarrassing."

On another occasion the cadets were at a civic function, where the mayor and mayoress were present.

When it came to formal dancing the officers just sat and looked at one another. The only dancing they knew is in a disco. It is not a reflection on the qualities of the lads and lasses — these are very intelligent people — it is more a reflection on the times we live in. But it got back to Sir Michael, who wanted to know what the hell was going on and ordered the commandant at Cranwell to do something about it.

"An RAF officer must be able to carry him or herself at all times and not be embarrassed socially."

The ballroom dancing sessions are not compulsory, but cadets on the eight-week courses are "strongly advised" to participate. They are taught

TV & RADIO 34, 35

WEATHER 18

CROSSWORD 18, 36

LETTERS 15
OBITUARIES 17
WILLIAM REES-MOGG. 14

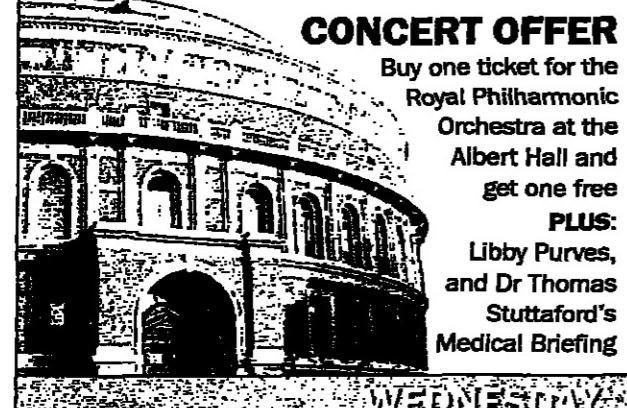
ARTS 10-11
CHESS & BRIDGE 30
COURT & SOCIAL 16

BUSINESS 34, 36
MIND AND MATTER 12
LAW REPORT 33

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY CONCERT OFFER

Buy one ticket for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall and get one free
PLUS: Libby Purves, and Dr Thomas Stuttaford's Medical Briefing



FASHION

Buttoned up: the best dresses for summer
PLUS: Win a mobile office in Interface

THURSDAY

FILM OF THE WEEK

Mira Sorvino in Woody Allen's Mighty Aphrodite

PLUS: Health, Books and Travel News

POP

Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

SUMMER OF '96

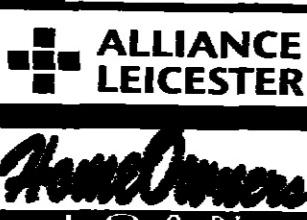
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Americans dismiss 'smear memo'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A TORY attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington this week appeared to have founded last night as American commentators professed themselves unimpressed by a document highlighting his 'un-American activities'.

A memorandum drawn up by the research department at Conservative Central Office and sent to Republican sympathising journalists in the United States was cited by Labour as evidence of a dirty tricks campaign against Mr Blair. But Conservative chiefs defended their action, accusing Labour of a 'hypocritical response' and said that all the information provided in the document was properly sourced and beyond dispute.

Tory sources said the document was compiled by the research department under Daniel Finkelstein, its director, after American commentators approached the department for information about 'this man Tony Blair'. However, at least one of the recipients, a senior journalist, was given it without asking for it.

The document, which Labour believes was designed to sabotage Mr Blair's three days of talks with President Clinton, other politicians and business highlights Mr Blair's

past opposition to nuclear weapons and states that in the 1980s both he and his wife Cherie were 'anti-nuclear and anti-American'. It claims that Mr Blair opposed the actions taken by America in 1986 in response to Libyan terrorist attacks, and had backed the removal of American nuclear missiles from Greenham Common.

Quoting from a Commons motion it added that he had criticised America's 'evil campaign' against Nicaragua and 'President Reagan's state-sponsored terrorism' in Central America.

The document goes on to detail the Shadow Cabinet's alleged 'un-American activities'. It says that four of them were members of a group called the Supper Club which had opposed Britain's entry into the war against Iraq. 'Mr Blair has seen fit to promote these MPs irrespective of their views. This is largely because he sympathises with them,' it asserts.

Tory sources said there was nothing secretive about the document which would in any case have been distributed to Westminster journalists this week as Mr Blair prepares to leave on his visit.

However, the heading on the paper, 'Blair's Un-American activities', inevitably evoked memories of the McCarthy era. Labour officials attacked the 'disgraceful smear' against Mr Blair, alleging that it would further

worsen the administration's relations with John Major. Clinton supporters remain irritated that senior Tories were sent to America to help in George Bush's failed re-election campaign four years ago.

Mr Blair will be attempting to convince Americans that Labour has buried its far left ideals and observers suggested yesterday that the document would have little impact on his visit.

John O'Sullivan, British-born editor of *National Review*, a right-wing magazine, described the allegations as 'true but trivial'. He was offered the 1½ pages by a Tory source but had paid no attention to them.

'Nobody really believes Tony Blair is the man he was in the 1990s,' he said.

In Mr O'Sullivan's view, the heading on the document about 'un-American activities' was 'sensationalistic'. He said: 'I would be equally cynical about the Tory attempts to spoil the Blair visit and Labour's indignation about it.'

The Tory stunt had not caused any reaction in America by yesterday. There was only a news agency report from London on the political row caused by the document. No American newspapers or television news programmes had picked up on its allegations. They might, though, as the week wears on.

I'll vote Labour at General Election, says Archdeacon

Austin counters Tory attacks on Blair's beliefs

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR



A SENIOR churchman threw his support behind Tony Blair yesterday after the Labour leader enraged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and saying that the Bible had taught him that he could never be a Tory.

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said he would be voting Labour at the General Election and launched a blistering attack on the Government's handling of the Scott Report and BSE. He suggested that 'morality comes second' for Tory MPs.

The Labour leader, who set out his religious views in a newspaper article, was accused by one Conservative MP of 'wearing God on his sleeve'.

Coming on the day that official research indicated that Mr Blair had succeeded in making the Labour Party more middle class than the Conservative Party, his remarks were more than senior Tory MPs could stomach.

They also prompted senior Labour figures to deny that he was arguing that 'Christians should only vote Labour'.

Brian Mawhinney, Conser-

vative party chairman, said: 'In terms of my Christian faith I start with Jesus and the Great Commandment, which is to love the God of the good with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength, and to love others as yourself. That commandment transcends party politics and I would be very cautious about any politician who sought to claim that his or her political party was the exclusive vehicle for Christian action.'

Mr Blair, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, said his view of Christian values led him to oppose the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism, particularly its modern, more right-wing form, represented. He insisted he was not pretending to be any better or less selfish than anyone else, or saying that Christians could only vote Labour.

'The key point is that Christianity is more than a one-to-one relationship between the individual and God, impor-

tant as that is. The relationship has to be with the outside world,' he wrote.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was reported to be aware of Mr Blair's remarks but declined to comment. But the archdeacon sprang to Mr Blair's defence. Mr Austin said: 'I welcome Tony Blair's comments. He wasn't saying that you couldn't be a Tory and a Christian. He was arguing that Christianity had swayed him against the extreme right wing and Marxism.'

'I think that the Tory MPs who are having a go at Blair today may be feeling guilty about the way they have handled the Scott Report and the BSE crisis. They have acted in a way that has made me wonder if I can trust them. With them, it seems morality comes second. I tend to vote against parties in elections and the Conservatives have swayed me against them.'

Mr Blair's words were bound to upset Tories already concerned by statistics apparently confirming Labour's claim to the middle class mantle. Labour's figures showed the party could now claim more young professionals and managers among its members than the Tories: 57 per cent of Labour members are in households earning £20,000 or more, and 30 per cent £30,000 or above. About 45 per cent of Tory members are in households earning £20,000 or more and 25 per cent £30,000 or more.

Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, defended Mr Blair's commitment. 'which we all know and admire and he goes out of his way from the beginning to say that he is not arguing that Christians should only vote Labour'.

He told GMTV's Sunday Programme: 'The Labour

Party is not trying to take over the Christian church, it would be ludicrous to say the least.

But Tony has a strong religious position and moral views that have shaped his politics. But he does go on to make some points about self-interest and community which seem to me to be perfectly legitimate.'

The Rev Andrew MacLellan, Convenor of the Church of Scotland, said he welcomed the fact politicians recognised politics was more than just economics, tax cuts and the pound in your pocket. On the same programme he said: 'Politics is about learning to be a society and a community together. Learning about being a society together is a secular way of speaking about loving your neighbour.'

Ann Widdecombe, a Home Office minister, said: '[Mr Blair] portrays Pontius Pilate as a man torn between right

and expediency. The Labour Party has consistently chosen expediency and I don't think Tony Blair is the best person to lecture us on religious morals.'

David Wills, Tory MP for Spelthorne, who is Convenor of the Methodist Fellowship at the Commons, said no politician 'should try to argue Christianity as justification for their ideology'. He was offended by Mr Blair's remarks, which were 'deeply hurtful' to many Christians.

Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Tory 1922 committee executive, said: 'It has always seemed to me that when politicians feel they must claim Christian principles as a reason why people should vote for them, which is precisely what Mr Blair is doing, they have abandoned moral thought themselves.'

Leading article, page 15

us free will to misuse, free will to use creatively. That is a reality of the world.

But it doesn't mean to say that He has abandoned the world. He's there. He's not an absentee landlord. He's with us and He expects us to take responsibility for our actions. When we think about those atrocities and the human tragedies that happen to each one of us, we know that we are going to see our loved ones again.'

□ In his first Easter Day sermon in York Minster, Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, said the bravery and courage shown by the people of Dunblane offered hope for the world. Despite the suffering felt by the whole community of the Scottish town, the courage of the headmaster and his staff and the emergency services gave cause for hope.

His message of hope was extended to those who suffered as a result of atrocities such as those at Dunblane and Srebrenica. Dr Carey said: 'God has created a world in which He has given most a pattern of the resurrection body that we will all one day enjoy.'

Asked if this was saying that in the eternal sense there could be a happy ending, he said: 'Oh yes, definitely, definitely. When we look at this world in which we live, the Easter faith is a wonderful radiant message of hope.'

The Archbishop said that those who had suffered in the Dunblane tragedy last month would be fortified by the certainty that they would see their loved ones again.

His message of hope was

Judge attacks Howard reforms

A former Master of the Rolls yesterday accused Michael Howard of turning his White Paper on tougher sentencing into an election manifesto and mixing party policy with penal reform.

Lord Donaldson of Lymington said:

'The White Paper read in part more as an election manifesto than it did as a serious study of penal policy.'

He also attacked the way penal policy had swung from one extreme to the other in recent years and suggested that attempts had been made to undermine public respect for the judiciary.

Opera TB tests

More than 200 members of the opera house staff at Glyndebourne have been tested for tuberculosis after five cases of the disease among staff within three years. No further cases were found in the tests, ordered by East Sussex Health Authority, but contacts are still being traced. The Glyndebourne season will open as scheduled on May 17.

Driving charge

The Princess of Wales' mother has been charged with refusing to provide a breath sample after being stopped by police. Frances Shand Kydd, 60, could also face a drink-driving charge after the incident in Chanterdale on Friday. She lives near the village of Seaford on the island of Seaford. She moved to the area after leaving her first husband, the late Earl Spencer.

Oriana sets sail

The *Oriana*, P&O's £20 million flagship liner, is due to return to the water today after spending two days in dry dock in Southampton being fitted with new propeller blades to stop her shaking at high speed. The cruise liner returned from her inaugural world cruise last week and is due to depart tonight for the Caribbean.

First point

Poole Town has narrowly escaped going into the record books as the worst soccer team in Britain after drawing 0-0 with Basle at the weekend. The Beazer Homes Southern side halted a run of 39 consecutive defeats, equaling a record set 18 years ago by Stockport County, and gained its first point of the season.

Royal baby due

The Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, above, the former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is expecting a baby in July. The daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and her husband, Daniel Chatto, announced their news to members of the Royal Family at Windsor.

Star trek

The British explorer David Hempleman-Adams is to attempt the first televised walk to the magnetic North Pole. His 17-strong team will set out from Resolute Bay in northwest Canada next week, dragging 300kg (660lb) of TV and satellite transmission equipment on a specially-insulated sledge.

Rickshaws roll

Britain's first rickshaw service started yesterday in Oxford with university students pedalling passengers on half-hour tours of the city. Twenty-five two-seater 21-gear rickshaws have been imported from India to use for the 28 trips around the main historic sites. A similar service is planned for Cambridge later this year.

July 1996

Judge attacks Howard reforms

A former Master of the Royal Courts of Justice, Michael Howard, has called for his White Paper to be rejected. He said it would lead to longer sentences and tougher sentencing guidelines.

Lord Donald Lamington said: "There is more to an issue than it appears. It is not just a study of the law, it is a political issue. He also argued that the new penal policy was "out of touch" from the public.

Mr Popovic, 74, was a leading figure in the British Serb community. He had led a group of Chetnik guerrillas against the Nazis and against Tito's Communists in a bitter civil war. When Tito triumphed Mr Popovic fled to England, homeless and with

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

Yugoslav refugee who fought Hitler and Tito is pulled from his car, beaten, kicked and robbed

British Serbs pray for war veteran killed by mugger

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PRAYERS were said in Serbian Orthodox churches across Britain yesterday for the Second World War veteran Stevan Popovic, who survived battles against Hitler and Tito only to die at the hands of a mugger in the country where he believed he had found sanctuary.

Mr Popovic, 74, was a leading figure in the British Serb community. He had led a group of Chetnik guerrillas against the Nazis and against Tito's Communists in a bitter civil war. When Tito triumphed Mr Popovic fled to England, homeless and with

only £1 in his name. On Saturday the man who spent his later years helping refugees from the latest war in the former Yugoslavia died shortly after being beaten and robbed by a youth whom he had asked for directions in Chapelton, Leeds.

Yesterday his widow, Dragica, 65, said: "I still cannot believe it has happened. I keep asking myself why Stevan loved the people here, he trusted people. We were so happy here and we had so many English friends."

Mr Popovic, known as Pop, was a retired bus driver who

lived in Oldham, Greater Manchester. He was in Leeds to collect a friend for a reunion of the Serbian Chetnik Association in Leicester, of which he was vice-president. Shortly after 8am he stopped to ask an Afro-Caribbean man in his late teens or early 20s the way to the hotel where his friend was waiting.

The youth abused him, pulled him from his Lada saloon, battered him to the ground and kicked him, breaking several of his ribs. He tore off Mr Popovic's jacket to steal his wallet, which contained £50, and pulled his watch and wedding ring from his hand. Despite his injuries, Mr Popovic tried to grab the steering wheel as the attacker drove off in the Lada. He clung on for a short distance but was thrown clear.

Mr Popovic had emergency surgery at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, but the stress of the incident induced a fatal heart attack. Detective Superintendent Andrew Brown, of West Yorkshire, said the incident was being treated as murder.

Mr Popovic had many relatives in the former Yugoslavia. His sister was killed last year in their home town of Knin, which is now part of Croatia. Mrs Popovic said: "It makes it difficult that, with all the trouble there, he should die like this. Had it been from natural causes, I might have accepted it, but to die just for asking someone the way..."

"Society has changed so much. Everything has changed since we came here. I remember you could leave a purse full of money and somebody would return it. Things must be changed, we cannot live in terror like this."

"He was a harmless old man who was looking forward to his day out with his friends. He was so looking forward to spending a traditional Serbian Orthodox family Easter at our home next week."

Mr Popovic was a graduate of the university in Split. He



Stevan Popovic with his granddaughter, Catherine. He became a bus driver after arriving in Britain in 1948



Dragica Popovic with her son, Milan, yesterday and with her husband soon after coming to Britain



Police fear twins were murdered

BY STEWART TENDLER

IDENTICAL twins whose bodies were pulled from a north London canal within yards of each other were yesterday at the centre of a murder investigation. One brother had been beaten to death and wrapped in a blanket. The other died from unknown causes.

As divers searched the Regents' Canal yesterday for clues to the deaths of Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, police were waiting to confirm whether they were dealing with a family row or a double murder.

The investigation began on March 26 when the body of Christopher Langford was found in the canal. Last Wednesday the body of Anthony was dragged from the same canal. It had been in the water for some days.

The two brothers came originally from Bedford and lived in hostels in the Islington area. Both had minor convictions for public order and drinking offences.

Royal Family to rescue as horses stampede

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Royal Family joined a five-hour alert with police and the Household Cavalry when 75 ponies stampeded from a late-night fire at the Guards Polo Club stables in Windsor Great Park.

The Duke and Duchess of York left their former matrimonial home at nearby Sunninghill Park to give first aid to a woman who suffered cuts when one of 30 terrified animals that ran through the town centre was fatally injured colliding with a car. They then helped to capture horses in Windsor Great Park.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales left Windsor Castle — hit by fire in 1992 — to help to calm the horses late on Saturday night. A spokesman said they had gone to satisfy themselves the situation was under control.

One officer in Windsor, Sergeant Andrew Morrow, said: "I was on King's Road and it was like the Grand National. There were more than 30 horses charging up the road in complete darkness."

The blaze had started on Saturday night in a hay barn at the polo club, where the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales are members. The head groom and his staff decided to release the ponies — some worth up to £20,000 — fearing they would be trapped by the smoke and flames.

The animals fled in darkness, to be hunted eventually by 100 police RSPCA inspectors, local Horse Watch members, AA patrols and one officer and five men from the Household Cavalry Regiment at Combermere Barracks.

Two police helicopters with thermal-imaging cameras were called out. Several police cars were damaged by fleeing horses and roads had to be sealed off to prevent accidents.

Many of the horses were found grazing safely in fields and gardens miles from the scene. Three people received hospital treatment for minor injuries. Among them was Jo Hughes, 18, who had been

helped by the Yards while she awaited an ambulance. She was a passenger in a Ford Orion when two horses collided with the side of the car and a third tried to climb over the roof. She said: "It was horrific. They just ran straight at us. You could smell the horses in the car."

Prince Andrew bandaged Ms Hughes's bleeding hand in his Range Rover. Ms Hughes, from Crowthorne, Berkshire, and her boyfriend were taken to hospital but later released.

The RSPCA said the pony was fatally injured and had to be put down. It belonged to Rick Stowe, a member of the Australian polo team. None of the other animals suffered serious injuries.

The polo club's chairman, Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox, praised his staff. "They had to get the horses out, they were so frightened. They tried to lead one or two to safety but suddenly they had to let them all go," he said.

The cause of the blaze was being investigated last night.

Mother who delayed cure in clear

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who risked death by turning down chemotherapy to let her unborn child live has been told she is clear of cancer.

Sonya Short, 29, a nurse from Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, decided against the treatment to cure a breast tumour 12 weeks into her pregnancy because she knew it would kill her baby. She had her right breast removed and delayed taking powerful anti-cancer drugs until after giving birth to Charlie, six months after the disease was detected.

The baby was born three weeks ago, weighing 7lb 13oz, and Mrs Short finally started a course of tamoxifen to combat the malignant cells. Mrs Short, 30, have now been told that their life-or-death gamble has succeeded.

The lump had been found during an ante-natal check-



up. The couple, who also have a two-year-old daughter, Molly, had no doubts about protecting Charlie while he was in the womb.

Mrs Short underwent a mastectomy last September, and had to wait until Charlie was born before she could continue her treatment. Mrs

Short, who nurses terminally ill patients at a hospice, had been told her pregnancy would make it easier for the cancer cells to enter her bloodstream.

After Mrs Short had a bone and liver scan, a cancer specialist nurse from the Royal Victoria Infirmary in

St. James' Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, telephoned last week to tell her she was free of the disease.

Cuddling Charlie, Mrs Short said: "I'm estate — I've been given the all-clear and I've got a lovely baby boy. I've been given my life back. I'm only just beginning to realise what it really means."

"Up until now we've lived week by week and not dared think too much about the future. One of my worries was that I might not be around to see Molly and Charlie start school. Now there's no reason why I shouldn't."

"I have no regrets. I don't think I could have lived with myself if I'd had an abortion so I could have the treatment."

Mrs Short will have to continue taking tamoxifen for five years to ensure the cancer does not return. "I'll never take my life for granted again," she said.

Mr Short said: "I'm so proud of Sonya."

HOME NEWS 3

Streets haunted by fear of crime

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CHAPELTOWN, the district of Leeds where Stevan Popovic was killed, is an area of narrow, terraced Victorian streets to the north of the city centre. It suffers many of the problems associated with inner cities: racial tension, drugs and a high crime rate. Almost 80 per cent of its population is Afro-Caribbean.

Most of the prostitution in Leeds is run from its streets and it was there in the 1970s that Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, selected several of his victims. Michael Sams, the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater four years ago, also picked up his first victim, Julie Dart, from a street corner in Chapeltown in 1991.

Tamrez Kahn, a taxi-firm operator, said yesterday that the district was notorious for violent crime. "It is part and parcel of everyday life around here. There are six or seven violent attacks every day and most go unreported. Pensioners call a cab to take them 40 yards to the Post Office to collect their pensions."

Rangodh-Thind, who runs a sub-post office, said: "There are muggings and beatings in Chapeltown on a daily basis. Everyone is scared."

West Yorkshire Police say the situation in Chapeltown is not as bad as in parts of other British cities, but last year criminals felt bold enough to continue a gunfight over territory at the entrance of the emergency unit at the neighbouring St James's University Hospital, where one young man was shot.

Derek Fatchen, Labour MP for Leeds Central, said: "It is a dangerous precedent to set a pattern from one isolated incident. My view is that you cannot see the whole of Chapeltown in these terms."

The Prince of Wales recently visited the Chapeltown and Harehills Assisted Learning Computer School, set up by parents concerned by the poor academic standards of many Afro-Caribbean children. The privately funded project has been responsible for a significant improvement in their attainments.

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Blunkett returns to woo teachers with school repairs plan

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday. A year after he was barracked by militants, he promised a new deal between Labour and the banks to repair "crumbling" schools.

At last year's conference, in Blackpool, the Shadow Education Secretary had to take refuge after being pursued by angry hard-left teachers. Yesterday his speech won loud applause from delegates.

Mr Blunkett's reception contrasted with the tension when Gillian Shephard addressed the conference in Cardiff on Saturday. The speech of the Education and Employment Secretary was punctuated by muted heckling and laughter as she defended the Government's record.

In one of his most assured performances as education spokesman, Mr Blunkett reaffirmed his party's intention to scrap nursery vouchers and halt any plans to increase selective schooling. But he used the speech to outline an innovative scheme to tackle the backlog of school repairs.

Groups of schools would negotiate repair and maintenance programmes with a consortium of banks and other private firms which would

raise the capital and take responsibility for the work. Money currently devoted to maintenance would be handed over to the consortium, which would make a profit from the resulting efficiency savings in contracts of up to 20 years.

Mr Blunkett claimed that this would enable hundreds of millions of pounds to go into school premises each year without increasing public-sector borrowing. "By pooling resources and working in partnership, we can ensure that sound advice is available, bureaucracy is minimised and private lenders are sufficiently confident to take part."

The scheme differs from the Government's Private Finance Initiative because groups of schools or whole education authorities would be involved, rather than single institutions. Mr Blunkett said the banks considered lending to individual schools a "non-starter".

The deterioration of many school buildings has been one of the main issues at this

year's teaching union conferences. The NUT is threatening walkouts in many schools next term if a national audit of premises finds buildings to be unsafe. An emergency motion at the conference condemned the Government's measures to deregulate school premises.

Labour has developed the scheme in discussions with Hambros Bank and is entering talks with the British Bankers' Association.

The £3.2 billion backlog of repair identified by a recent survey could be cleared in a "reasonable period of time", Mr Blunkett said. Labour could not promise instant improvements but would commit itself to a decade of investment in education.

Doug McAvoy, the general

secretary of the NUT, welcomed the plan but said Labour had to be prepared to carry out the repair programme even if the scheme did not work. If necessary, this should extend to raising taxes.

Graham Lane, who chairs the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said local authorities would be thrilled by the

scheme. "It is a rare example of imaginative thinking to solve a serious problem and I am convinced it would work." □ More than 600 schools still have outside lavatories and 750,000 children are taught in temporary classrooms, according to the latest survey of school premises. A report by the two main local government associations found that schools were suffering an "appalling level of neglect".

The need to enhance capital spending has long been recognised, but restraints on public expenditure have frustrated education ministers' plans. The local authorities' report said the amount they had been allowed to spend on capital projects had been cut by 22 per cent in four years.



David Blunkett addressing the conference yesterday. His warm reception was in contrast to the heckling endured by Gillian Shephard

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Rosetta flies a million miles to seek comet's heart of stone

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SMALL craft are to attempt to land on an orbiting comet as part of a unique space mission. Experiments will be carried out on samples taken from Wirtanen's comet by a tiny landing craft's robot arm and the results relayed to Earth.

At the end of the mission, with Wirtanen's comet approaching the sun, the mother ship will move to 50,000 km behind the comet's tail. From there it will fly slowly into the dust and solar wind exuding from the comet, taking measurements and eventually crashing into Wirtanen's nucleus, ten years after launch.

Details of the mission, which will rendezvous with Wirtanen's comet early next century, are expected to take centre stage at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in Liverpool this week.

Researchers believe that if the project is successful it will shed new light on the origins of the Universe and the planets. The Giotto space probe had a rendezvous with Halley's comet a few years ago but no space craft has landed on a comet.

Until recently there were doubts over whether the experiment would get off the ground after Britain pressed for funding cuts at the European Space Agency. But Peter Bond, space science adviser to the society, said yesterday that the Government's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council had found money for the venture.

"I think this will be an amazing mission," Mr Bond said. "It will be the first time we've ever followed a comet for millions of miles, watching how it develops as it gets closer to the sun, and the first time anything has landed on a comet."

The probes will hopefully soft-land on the nucleus and measure the surface, how hard it is, what it's made of and what gases come out of it."

The spacecraft, Rosetta, is named after the Egyptian town where, in 1799, the Rosetta stone was discovered. It is scheduled to blast off from French Guiana in January 2003. The main landing probe will be a



Champollion: first to decipher Rosetta stone

45kg craft named Champollion, after Jean-François Champollion, the French man who made the first complete decipherment of the Rosetta stone.

British universities and institutes, including Sheffield University, the Open University, Imperial College and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, will have instruments on board.

Rosetta will travel through space for eight years before intercepting the comet 700 million kilometres from earth, near Jupiter's orbit. Mission planners will use the voyage to pass two asteroids, 5940 Phantastre and 2530 Shipton, 300 and then 2,100 days after launch.

On approaching Wirtanen's comet, Rosetta will fire thrusters to slow its approach so that it orbits around the comet's head, or nucleus. Here it will track the comet for about three years, sending data back to Earth.

It was hoped that the Rosetta mission would bring a piece of the comet back to Earth but budget constraints have altered the plans. Instead, two small probes will be dropped from the mother craft onto Wirtanen's surface.

The Champollion probe has been built by NASA and CNES, the French space agency. The other, RoLand (or Rosetta Lander), was built by German companies with help from European institutes, including the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

While Champollion is designed to last a matter of days, RoLand should function for several months.

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THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

HOME NEWS 5

Mystery of 'Officer in the Tower'

Files to solve riddle of spy who loved German women

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

A SIXTY-YEAR mystery involving high treason, sexual obsession and a mysterious blonde is expected to be solved soon with the release of secret Government papers about Norman Baillie-Stewart, the last Briton to be imprisoned in the Tower of London.

A lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders, Baillie-Stewart was twice accused of betraying his country, once for selling secrets to the Germans for £90 in 1933 and again after making pro-German broadcasts during the war. In the secrets trial, he claimed that the money was in fact given to him by a Berlin blonde called Marie Louise in return for sexual favours.

He was sent to the Tower after being described at his court martial as "a pathological case with a fixation for German women".

Thirty years after he died in a Dublin bar in June 1966, the Home Office is to release the papers about the "Officer in the Tower", in June or July. Historians hope they will reveal the truth about the identity of Marie Louise and clear up claims by the War Office — always denied by Baillie-Stewart — that he had made a full confession.

The papers should also throw light on the farcical circumstances in which Baillie-Stewart was forced to take exercise at the Tower in full public view. For six weeks in 1933, crowds queued to see the tall and strikingly handsome young traitor — said to be irresistible to women — parade daily in full Highland dress, escorted by an armed Coldstream Guards officer.

The son of a distinguished Indian army officer, Baillie-Stewart had trained at the Royal Naval College, Dart-

mouth, and then at Sandhurst. He won decorations for service on the North-West Frontier and was thought to be a model officer until his arrest at the age of 23.

Details of his love life gripped public interest as Baillie-Stewart claimed at his court martial that money sent from Germany was a gift from a grateful 22-year-old fair-haired woman, Marie Louise, to whom he had made love in a public park in Berlin.

At one point in his trial, the judge was moved to remind the court that Baillie-Stewart was being tried for breaches of the Official Secrets Act, not immorality.

On his release in 1937, the disgraced Baillie-Stewart went to live in Germany, where he applied for citizenship. His love affair was always with the German nation, and German women in particular, rather than Nazism. He claimed that his activities in helping Jews to escape from Austria earned him the nickname "the Scarlet Pimpernel".

Yet by 1940 he had begun the original "Germany calling" broadcasts as the first "Lord Haw-Haw" before William Joyce — who was hanged as a traitor in 1945 — took over the role. Baillie-Stewart was arrested some months after the end of the war in the Austrian Tyrol. He was dressed in traditional local garb of leather shorts, white stockings, embroidered braces and a green forester's jacket. At his second trial he insisted that he had applied for German nationality in 1938 and could therefore not be charged with aiding the enemy, but the court ruled that no change of nationality was valid during wartime. Sentencing him to another five years, the trial

judge told him: "You are one of the worst citizens your country has ever produced."

After his release, Baillie-Stewart settled in Dublin where for a time he made a living selling cheap Wild West stories. Still debonair and full of public school charm, in 1950 he married a beautiful Irish shopgirl half his age. He settled down to a life of commerce and shortly before he died made money designing a ship for the Harland and Wolff yard.

Towards the end of his life, Baillie-Stewart claimed that Marie Louise did not exist. Yet over the years, several people claimed to have found her. A Labour MP told the House of Commons in 1933 that she was a Berlin Jewess, Olga Israel, who did not come forward at Baillie-Stewart's trial because she feared the wrath of Hitler. Shortly afterwards, the French secret service claimed to have arrested her on espionage charges in Finland and said that she was, in fact, a Russian. After the Second World War, a British agent claimed to have found her still living in Germany.

THE Australian Outback has inspired the painter Sarah Raphael to win Britain's biggest art prize.

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Outback vision puts artist in the frame for £36,000

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The second prize of £10,000 was won by Frances Borden, 25, from Bampton, Devon. Charlotte Sorapure, 27, from Blackheath, south London, and Sarah Florence, 32, from Norwich, shared the £5,000 award for third place. A student

award of £1,000 went to Harriet Barber, 27, from Blandford, Dorset. Two watercolours by the Prince of Wales went on public display yesterday at the family home of his children's nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke. The Prince is one of 80 artists exhibiting at Penmarth, in Crickhowell, Powys. Neither he nor Miss Legge-Bourke were at the exhibition yesterday.

THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK has inspired the painter Sarah Raphael to win Britain's biggest art prize.

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Lawyers join scheme to represent hard-up clients

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's leading lawyers are joining a scheme to represent hard-up but worthy clients for nothing. The first case chosen for this treatment is that of a woman who has been ordered to return a ten-year-old Zulu boy living with her family to his natural parents in South African township.

The lawyers for the woman will be Allan Levy, QC, and Maggie Rae, a solicitor with Mishcon De Reya, solicitors to the Princess of Wales. The case forms part of a six-month pilot scheme, called *pro bono*

(for the public good), to be launched formally by the Bar Council next month.

The Court of Appeal ordered last month that the Zulu boy, who cannot be identified, must return to South Africa four years after the white woman, who now lives in Maida Vale, west London, brought him to England for adoption. Lord Justice Nelli rejected the idea of adoption and noted that the boy, known only as P, had lost his ability to speak Zulu and that his links with his homeland were growing more tenuous.

Mr Levy succeeded last week in obtaining a stay of the order until

the end of this month and hopes to persuade the House of Lords to grant a hearing before then.

The Bar already runs a Free Representation Unit, in which Bar students take on tribunal cases for nothing. Individual chambers, specialist Bar groups, regional circuits of barristers and City solicitors have all launched free schemes, but this is the first to be run at Bar Council level.

It will draw upon top lawyers who are used to high earnings. Normally a partner in a City solicitors' practice would charge £200 an hour and a Queen's Counsel working on a court hearing could be on a brief

fee of between £10,000 and £50,000, depending on the complexity of the case, plus a daily top-up fee of £2,500.

The scheme, which is not intended to be a substitute for legal aid, will have a full-time administrator and will operate from rooms in Gray's Inn. About £20,000 has been raised by the profession to launch the scheme, which will qualify for charitable status.

Other top barristers who have signalled their support include Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman and reputedly one of the highest earners at the commercial Bar. He said: "I believe there is a

strong moral argument that those lawyers who can afford to commit their time should be prepared to provide some *pro bono* work."

A management committee will be set up to sift applications for support and to establish ground rules for the kind of cases that will qualify.

Mr Goldsmith was responsible for contacting Mr Levy to take on the case of the Zulu boy after another solicitor, Beverley Golden, highlighted his plight in a Sunday newspaper. She said she was delighted that the lawyers were to seek leave to appeal. After the Court of Appeal hearing, at which it was ordered that the boy should have no

Law, page 33

Rabies law traps sad dogs and Englishmen who went out for new life in the sun

MARTIN BEDDOE

Pet subject of the ex-pats threatens to cost Tory seats

FROM BILL FROST IN ANTIBES

AN estimated 100,000 British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur are united as never before in a campaign which should worry John Major. The lotus eaters who retired to the sun are usually Tory postal voters, but they say the Prime Minister will suffer at the next election for condemning their pets to permanent exile or death in quarantine.

They are determined to overturn or flout British anti-rabies laws which prevent them bringing their animals home for short visits. The average £1,500 cost of the required six-month quarantine is attacked as prohibitive, and at least ten animals are said to die behind the wire

every four weeks. The case of Quintus and Bendeux is typical. Despite their pampered Mediterranean lifestyle, the two pedigree Australian terriers (bred in Worcester, formative years spent in Chelsea) are really missing England, according to their owners.

But British law says that they and an estimated 200,000 four-legged British exiles in the South of France might be rabid. It is the hottest issue in a once steadfastly Tory ex-pat community now threatening to vote Labour.

Michael and Judy Sabey brought Quintus and Bendeux from Chelsea to a palatial home in an exclusive corner of Saint Laurent du Var outside

Nice five years ago. At first sight, all four give the impression that they have never endured a moment's worry or irritation since leaving London.

Two minutes' conversation with the couple is enough to shatter the shimmering illusion. They claim that John Major hates animals and they threaten to use their votes to dish him at the next general election. The number of ex-pat votes is enough to make a difference in some constituencies. As the dogs gambol on the grass, their owners telephone Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians in the hope of gaining support for a legal change.

"None of the British pets out here has rabies. They've all been inoculated," Mrs Sabey said. "Why can't we take our dogs and cats home for holidays like Easter, Christmas or, for that matter: any other time of the year?"

"Britain seems to allow some very unsavoury human specimens to come in when my perfect dogs are kept out. And the boys really need a trip to a hairdresser, a British hairdresser."

There is no doubt the strength of feeling among British expatriates over the issue. According to the letters column of *Riviera Reporter*, the English-language magazine for the Côte d'Azur, the "Passports for Pets" campaign has united the ex-pats against the Tories.

"There are about 100,000 of us in this position and we are all angry, very angry," says Mr Sabey, who took his wife and "the boys" to the sun after doing rather well in London as a chartered surveyor. "Some

have already broken the law

and smuggled their pets home

rather than leave them pining in quarantine. It's quite easy if you know how."

The Sabays and their numerous allies in the South of France point to the House of Commons all-party agriculture select committee report of October 1994 which unanimously recommended a review of the existing law.

The committee said that dogs and cats should be positively identified by microchip or tattoo; have spent at least six months in an approved country before coming to Britain; be vaccinated from the age of three

months against rabies and be blood-tested by an approved laboratory to ensure the shots confer immunity.

Quintus and Bendeux qualify on every count. So do the majority of British-owned pets on the Côte d'Azur. say the Sabays and their army of friends.

The ex-pats have powerful allies at home to lobby for them. The great and the good — peers, vets and millionaire dog-lovers — have all added their support to the "Passports for Pets" campaign.

However, the Government

shelved the committee's report. "Major's unwillingness to listen to reason condemns thousands of pets to death and stress-related illness while in quarantine when their owners take them home for good," said Mrs Sabey.

Her husband added: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject and with very good reason too. It's absolutely scandalous. British laws on rabies were made in the 1920s before a vaccine was available."

Mrs Sabey seethes with rage that her "boys" are condemned to quarantine or exile. "I am sure that John

Major is not a dog man, if anything I would imagine he is a budgie fancier. But he should realise that there was once a staunch block of Tory voters out here who would now vote New Labour or even Socialist Workers' Party if they backed a change in the quarantine law.

"This is not just an offence against dogs, it is also a breach of our human rights. We made that point in a 2,000-signature petition I presented at 10 Downing Street.

"Major never even bothered to reply — just a deafening silence. How bloody rude."

Winning numbers, page 18



Michael Sabey and his wife Judy with their dogs: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject"

LOVE ME, LOVE MY BEST FRIEND



MORE than 40 per cent of dog owners would rather spend a weekend with their pet than with their partners or friends, according to a survey.

As they grow older, humans become even more passionate about their dogs: almost 60 per cent of dog-owning pensioners said they loved their pets more than their partners. At any age, almost half of women owners put their dog before the men in their life.

The survey of 2,000 adults, carried out for a dog-food manufacturer, showed that nine out of ten of those questioned felt that dogs had a much happier existence than their owners. Dogs take priority at feeding time, too: about 60 per cent said that the family dog was likely to be fed long before

the family itself. David Watson, consultant vet for the company, said: "In an increasingly stressful world, the family dog is a blissful constant. Pertinent to the hectic 90s is finding that one in three dog owners believe their dogs help to reduce stress."

Owners said that gaining a dependable friend was the main reason to keep a dog.

Magic pill for flagging sex life some years off

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

will correct impotence if the penile mechanics have irretrievably broken down, either because of failure of the blood supply — the coronary arteries are not the only ones to become furred with advancing years — or because of leaking valves in the corpora cavernosa, the cylinders in the penis which become engorged with blood during sexual excite-

ment. The Pfizer trial of sildenafil has been taking place for some years but occasionally word slips out from a clinic in Kent or Sussex of its apparent success and the consequent optimism of both the doctors and their patients.

The drug is taken about an hour before intercourse is expected to take place and enhances only the effect of

sexual excitement. If the evening does not follow the expected pattern and a forgotten meeting with the parochial church council is remembered, there is no embarrassment from visual evidence of a frustrated desire.

Caverject — prostaglandin E — which relaxes the smooth muscles within the corpora cavernosa, is made by Upjohn. The injection is given into the corpora cavernosa through a very fine needle held at right-angles.

Patients assure me that it is virtually painless but produces a response that recalls memories of their youth. Unlike the erections produced by earlier intrapenile injections, those produced by Caverject usually wear off within an

hour and problems from priapism, a persistent erection lasting for more than four hours, are exceptionally rare. Other methods of delivering prostaglandin E have been tried; there was success in using it as a cream designed to be squeezed into the urethra, but despite an encouraging hospital trial there are no plans to market it commercially.

Another pharmaceutical firm is well advanced in its plans to introduce a cream containing a vasodilator drug that will improve the penile blood supply when it is applied externally to the skin. Initial results from the use of this cream have been good and it is expected that it will go into manufacture.

Hepatitis fear prompts call for patients to use own blood

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of a new strain of hepatitis led to calls yesterday for patients to use their own blood in transfusions. Hepatitis G is the latest virus to be identified in human beings and is probably carried by more than 800,000 people in the United Kingdom.

Lesley Kay, a leading consultant haematologist, said new diseases were always being found which required extra screening of blood samples, and suggested that patients have their own blood removed and stored before operations if only a little was required.

"I am a big advocate of having your own blood because we are forever chasing the next virus," Dr Kay, of Medical Diagnostic Laborato-

ries, which serves several major private London hospitals, said.

"What is the next danger from blood? We had HIV-I then we discovered there was a variant, HIV-2. We had Hepatitis C then we realised there was a variant, Hepatitis G. With worldwide travel, sexual freedom and drug abuse we are going to get more of these viruses."

Blood in Britain is already screened for syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and two types of HIV. Foreign countries use more stringent tests for Hepatitis B and also look for HTLV-1, a virus that can lead to cancer. Hepatitis G has been identified in the past year and there are already calls for screening. Already some parts

of Britain, particularly in the North of England, are using surgery techniques in which the results of bleeding can be returned to the patient. In some surgery, such as knee replacements, bleeding happens when the tourniquet is removed.

Early studies of Hepatitis G suggest it is carried by at least 1.5 per cent of blood donors. It appears to be related to Hepatitis C, which is associated with a spectrum of liver problems including cancer. The effects of the new virus are still unknown but, since it seems more widespread than C, it probably is less dangerous. Scientists suspect that it has been in the human population for thousands of years but is only now being recognised.

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ries, which serve several major private London hospitals, said.

"What is the next danger from blood? We had HIV-I then we discovered there was a variant, HIV-2. We had Hepatitis C then we realised there was a variant, Hepatitis G. With worldwide travel, sexual freedom and drug abuse we are going to get more of these viruses."

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in Weekend. *At Service Near You* is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At Service Near You makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches — The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

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Troops in South Korea placed on high alert

By MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICAN troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula.

About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. The violation of the armistice which ended the Korean War in 1953, came after two incursions on Friday and Saturday. After the first, President Kim Young Sam of South Korea ordered "heightened iron-tight" defence. Under the armistice, only 35 military police from each side may enter the 2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone.

Each incursion was larger than the last, taking place in the evening and lasting about two hours. On Saturday, soldiers carrying rifles and machine-guns entered the buffer zone in nine lorries, but did no more than demonstrate their defiance. On Friday, 120



North Korean soldiers stayed in the area for two hours.

South Korea announced a state of emergency around the joint security area, and some units were ordered to "prepare to deal with a possible emergency". They are on the highest alert in 15 years. President Kim called the first incursion a dangerous escalation of Pyongyang's provocations, while a North Korean newspaper accused the South of preparing an invasion and said the peninsula was on "the eve of war". The paper said North Korea would be forced to take a counter-measure.

United Nations forces along

the frontier said there was no immediate threat from the North. The United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, announced increased surveillance after the first incursion, but otherwise responded in low-key manner. A statement from the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command said yesterday that they were "concerned" by the latest events. However, it added: "The combined and allied leadership see no other evidence of movement of troops or other military that would suggest any imminent threat."

James Laney, the American Ambassador to Seoul, met Gong Ro Myung, the Foreign Minister, and they confirmed that they would maintain a "strong defence readiness" against the North. The State Department said that, although the incursions violated truces, they appeared to reflect North Korea's attempt to distance itself from the Korean War armistice and to deal directly with Washington.

North Korea has taken an increasingly aggressive line towards the South. In 1994 it

withdrew from the military armistice commission that oversees the truce and banned UN monitors from entering its territory at the Panmunjom crossing. It has demanded a bilateral peace agreement with Washington.

President Clinton is due to visit South Korea next week on his way to Japan.

North Korea has a million men under arms compared with 650,000 South Korean troops. The North's Chinese and Soviet-era weapons are outdated, however, and strategists say they would be no match for the better-equipped South Korean army.

American officials suggest that the latest incidents are intended to increase diplomatic leverage rather than serve as a prelude to a frontal attack across the armistice line.

The timing appears to be linked to South Korea's parliamentary elections on Thursday. President Kim's New Korea Party is expected to lose its absolute majority in the national assembly, but the North's sabre-rattling may rally voters in the South around the Government.



South Koreans look through telescopes across the demilitarised zone yesterday

Kashmir hostages 'held in village'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN SRINAGAR

INDIAN troops have pulled out of the Wadwan Hills in southeast Kashmir after identifying the areas where they believe four Western hostages, including two Britons, are being held by Muslim extremists in a village hut.

The army said it feared an accidental confrontation between the militants and troops which could endanger the captives' lives. According to military intelligence, based on sightings by local people, all four men are alive.

Scotland Yard officers, trained in hostage negotiation, are in India in the hope of finding a breakthrough. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan from Britain, Donald Hutchings of America and Dirk Hasert, a German, have entered their tenth month of captivity and radio contacts with Al Faran, the kidnap group, have broken down. The authorities are baffled by the long silence and the main theory is that the captors do not know how to end the crisis.



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang flank Earl Mountbatten on a visit to British India in 1943.

Chiang's home town mourns loss of its Taiwanese tourists

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN XIEKOU, CHINA

JUST two months ago, this picturesque little town near China's eastern coast was swarming with Taiwanese tourists visiting the birthplace of Chiang Kai-shek, the late Chinese Nationalist Party leader, but for the past few weeks since Peking launched military exercises in the Taiwan Strait not a single Taiwanese has appeared, locals said yesterday.

"They are afraid to come, and business is hurting," said Chiang Suzhong, 37, who like many people in Xiekou shares a surname with the leader who died in 1975 and claims distant kinship to the man he calls lord. "Last year we had Taiwanese tourists every day, but now because of the recent tension, they have stopped coming. The younger Chiang is a guide to the birthplace, former home and school of the Nationalist leader,

who fled with his troops to Taiwan in 1949 when the Communists armies of his arch-enemy, Mao Tse-tung, won control of the mainland. In the anti-landlord campaign of the early 1950s, many other Chiang descendants were shot, imprisoned or sent to labour camps, locals said.

Yet there are still plenty of visitors to the Chiang ancestral home in Zhejiang province, although they are less wealthy Chinese citizens, not free-spending Taiwanese. Altogether one and a half million came last year.

The Taiwanese became nervous over fears that conflict would break out between China and Taiwan during the war games which ended in late March, after the Taiwanese presidential elections easily won by incumbent President Lee Teng-hui, who may have been helped by the Chinese sabre-rattling.

Surprisingly, Generalissimo Chiang, once Mao's nemesis, has undergone something of a rehabilitation in China, at a time when Peking has heaped abuse on Mr Lee as a "splittist" alleged

ly bent on seeking independence for the prosperous island territory regarded by China as a renegade province. Damage done by the Red Guards, who smashed Chiang family graves and scattered the bones of Chiang's mother, has been repaired, as has earlier devastation caused by Japanese bombs.

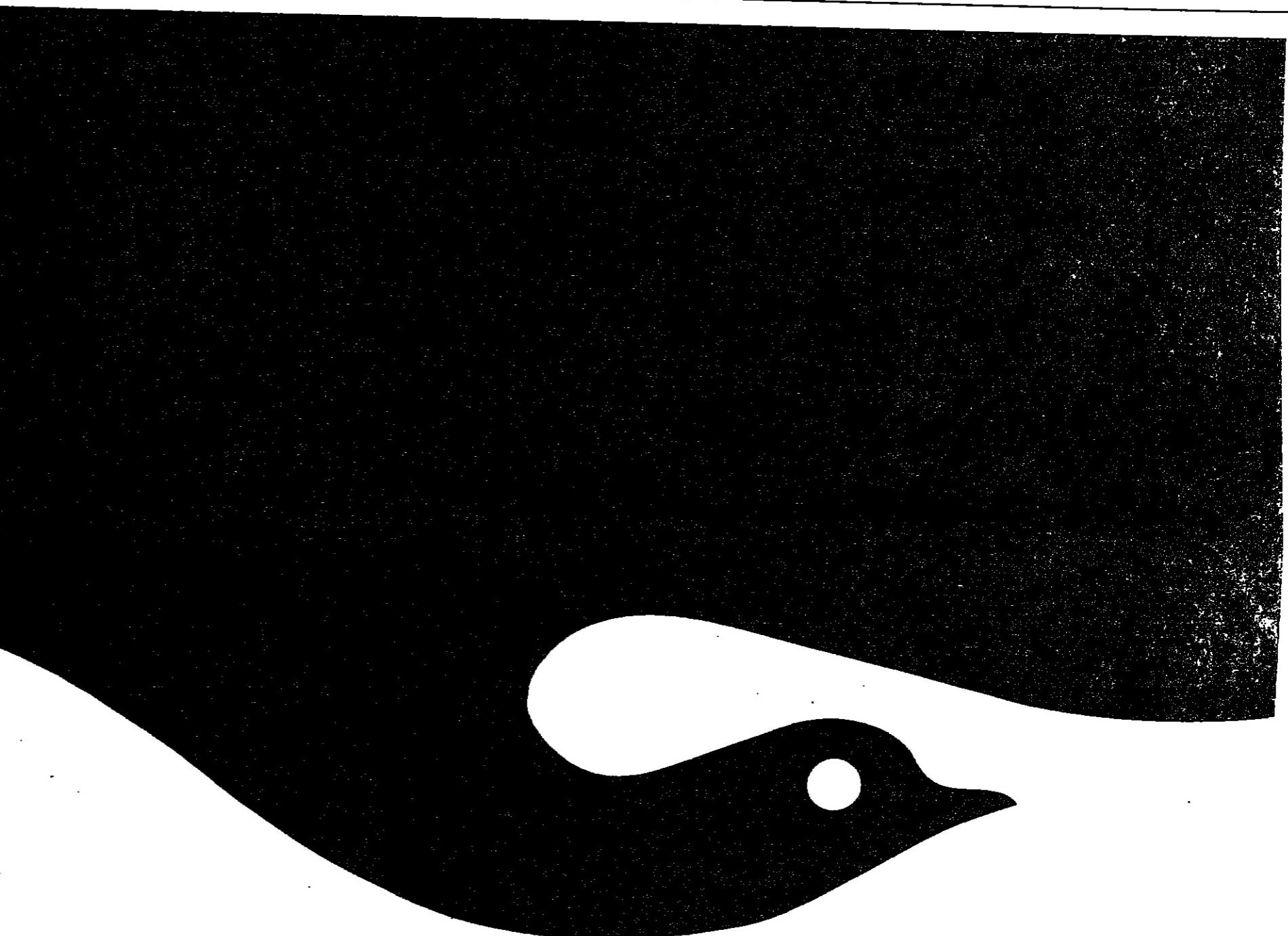
People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers, carrying their caps, were at the weekend touring the cobbled courtyards of Chiang's old residence, although their colleagues in neighbouring Fujian province were only last month firing missiles into the sea off Taiwan.

"Chiang made valuable contributions to the anti-Japanese struggle," said an elderly visitor from Shanghai, touring exhibits which included snapshots of Chiang with Churchill and Roosevelt. "Mao and Chiang may have had ideological differences, but Chiang always believed that China was one country and that Taiwan was part of China, unlike the present rulers there. The situation has been a little tense recently. Perhaps our Taiwan compatriots will return soon."

Grassroots economic matters, such as the relative prosperity that has come to this once neglected town since Peking began a more open policy towards Taiwan in 1986, and even encouragement to Taiwanese business to invest in Zhejiang, in part explain Chiang's return from purgatory.

Uneasy Taiwanese businessmen, 100,000 of whom have invested £16.5 billion since China's opening, certainly hope for a return of the strategy of co-operation between Mao and Chiang for a rare period in the 1930s, as do traders and guides like young Chiang who drives visitors around in a canopied bicycle trishaw.

But it may be some time before they make the pilgrimage here again.



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Mangled proverb led to arrest in Unabomber hunt

By QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MANGLED proverb provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, a 53-year-old hermit from the wilds of Montana, is the most wanted man in America. In letters to his octogenarian mother, Mr Kaczynski used the expression "you can't eat your cake and have it, too". The same inverted construction was used by Unabomber, who is wanted for a deadly bombing campaign which lasted for 18 years.

Mr Kaczynski, who was arrested last week, is being detained on a holding charge related to a homemade bomb found at his cabin. A grand jury in Great Falls, Montana, may confirm further charges later this month.

Wanda Kaczynski allowed FBI agents to look at letters from her son that she had kept over the years. She did so, confident that they would prove he had nothing to do with the Unabomber.

In addition to the "eat your cake" maxim, the letters contained rambling philosophical monologues which bear comparisons to the 35,000-word manifesto sent by the Unabomber to newspapers last year. Mr Kaczynski's letters were typed, as was the bomber's manifesto. Examples of the two will be examined by Martin Tytell, an 82-year-old typewriter expert from New York. Ironically, if the technophobe Unabomber had relied on a computer printer he might have denied the FBI vital evidence.

Unabomber investigators, who were tipped off by Mr Kaczynski's younger brother, appear increasingly confident that he is their man, but the United States Attorney General

al's office continued to exercise legal caution. Experts have speculated that Mr Kaczynski could be tried in the various states where the Unabomber struck. The District Attorney in Sacramento, California, boasted that her city was the easiest place in which to secure a death sentence, and Pete Wilson, California's Governor, said he would work to ensure that the trial was held there.

The object of their unseemly squabbling, Ted Kaczynski, looked perplexed by the array of cameras and reporters' shouts of "Are you the Unabomber?" as he faced the media. He walked busily, his head bobbing up and down as he checked the ground, with his hands held together like a monk in cloisters. The former maths professor's now-washed hair is springy, and his filthy old clothes have been replaced by a bright orange prison jumpsuit.

Outside Lincoln, Montana, FBI agents allowed reporters a closer look at the outside of the handbuilt, 10ft by 12ft plywood



Kaczynski: expert is to examine his typewriter

cabin where Mr Kaczynski lived, enduring the merciless winters without electricity or plumbing. In thick snows he must have struggled outside to use a nearby stream as a toilet. Inside, the cabin was dark, the only natural light filtering through two inadequate, dirty windows. The single door has three locks, a level of protection rare in a rural community where neighbours lend each other tools, swap vegetables and leave the door open.

Investigators are going through the contents of 40 boxes of assorted belongings found in a loft in the cabin. One neighbour recalled him as "a sweet little neighbour", but Carol Wells, a Lincoln shopkeeper, said that "this was not his home, just his hiding place".

Police have yet to understand how a seemingly penniless hermit can allegedly have conducted a nationwide bombing campaign. Mr Kaczynski made occasional bus journeys, using the daily service connecting Lincoln to Montana's capital, Helena, 30 miles away, and to Missoula, about 100 miles to the west. From there one can catch Greyhound buses to destinations across the country.

For Lincoln, meanwhile, a small economic boom is taking place thanks to the massed ranks of reporters and FBI investigators. Wayne Cashman, owner of the Blackfoot River Inn, said: "This time of year is usually really slow. It has been a real help." Souvenirs were swiftly marketed, from \$40 (£26) Unabomber T-shirts to \$20 baseball caps. There has also been the sighting of the first taxi in Lincoln, hired in Helena by a CBS News reporter.



First Olympic Games re-run

By SWEDEN AND AMERICA COMPETED ON SATURDAY NIGHT IN SOME OF THE 43 ORIGINAL EVENTS FOR OLIVE WREATHS AND SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS — THERE WERE NO GOLD MEDALS IN 1896.

"We had a lot of fun. You get overwhelmed by the hist-

ory here which can't be compared to any medal. I can say I've run in this stadium," Roger Kingdom, a two-time gold medallist, said. The centennial Games in Atlanta this summer will include 10,000 athletes from 197 countries competing in 271 events. The Olympic torch is being taken around the Greek islands before it begins its journey to Georgia. (Reuters)

Teenage boys kill themselves for love of a schoolgirl, 12

By QUENTIN LETTS

TWO 15-year-old boys involved in a love triangle killed themselves in desperation at their romantic plight, after police stopped them for speeding in a stolen car. An alert state trooper managed to stop the 12-year-old girl they both loved from shooting herself as well.

A weeping Jennifer Waldroup was restrained by the Arkansas state trooper moments after her would-be boyfriends, Joshua Rogers and Kevin Hyde, died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head from a .22 pistol.

The three children, from North Carolina, had stolen the car and were miles from home when they were spotted driving through Arkansas at more than 100mph.

Police chased them until the car eventually pulled up at a lay-by, where Corporal Freddie Hudson left his patrol car to talk to them.

As the state trooper approached the vehicle, there were two shots as the boys killed themselves.

He rushed towards the car and found Jennifer scrambling around on the floor of the head from a .22 pistol.

Weeping Clinton salutes Brown

By IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY, THE BODIES OF RON BROWN, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, AND 32 OTHER PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE DUBROVNIK AIR CRASH, WERE RETURNED TO AMERICAN SOIL AS THEIR GRIEVING FAMILIES AND PRESIDENT CLINTON LOOKED ON.

A 19-gun salute echoed at dusk on Saturday across the Dover air force base in Delaware where the American trade mission to help the Balkans rebuild in peace ended in tears.

Mr Clinton, his voice breaking, said: "The sun is going down on this day. The next time it rises it will be Easter morning, a day that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption... What they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

Mr Clinton paid special tribute to Mr Brown, a political ally and an architect of his own 1992 election victory: "He was a noble Secretary of Commerce who never saw a mountain he couldn't climb, or a river he couldn't build a bridge across."

The strain of the occasion showed clearly on Mr Clinton's face. He finally broke down after the ceremony as he walked to Air Force One to fly back to Washington.

Chirac accused of weapons deal to save French pilots

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC WAS ENROLLED IN CONTROVERSY YESTERDAY AFTER FRENCH TELEVISION REPORTED THAT HE HAD SANCTIONED WEAPONS SALES TO BOSNIAN SERBS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF TWO PILOTS SHOT DOWN OVER THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.

The report on the independent TF1 channel, which was denied by the French authorities, claimed that Paris had paid Russia to supply arms to the forces of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic last December.

M Chirac has maintained there were neither negotiations nor deals with the Bosnian Serbs, who captured the airmen after their Mirage 2000 was hit over Pale during a Nato mission last August. Captain Frédéric Chiffier and Lieutenant José Souvignier were held hostage for 103 days amid growing anxiety in France. When they were freed, M Chirac went out of his way to thank President Yeltsin without whom, he said, the release "would not have been possible". He said the Russian leader had helped by putting pressure on Dr Karadzic and General Mladic. But in a report for its main evening news bulletin on Saturday, TF1 said that Mr Yeltsin's intervention was far more significant than President Chirac had led his compatriots to believe.

It said Jean-Charles Marchiani, an intelligence specialist who is close to President Chirac's Gaullist movement, had been involved in talks

Albright tipped for the top in next Clinton Cabinet

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN St Mary's girls' school in North Carolina wanted to invite Madeleine Albright, the Ambassador to the United Nations, to give a speech last month it enlisted the help of its right-wing local senator.

Jesse Helms, America's harshest UN critic, wrote to Mrs Albright to persuade her to visit his rural, tobacco-growing constituency. The ambassador accepted the invitation on condition that Mr Helms appear at the event to introduce her.

The event went swimmingly. Mrs Albright used the occasion to make a policy address on UN-American relations. Mr Helms nodded approvingly at every mention of UN reform and refrained from criticising her proposal that Washington pay off its billion-dollar debt to the world body over the next five years.

The gathering was the clearest sign yet of one of the most curious courtships in current American politics between a diehard Democrat and the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He is charmed by women; she knows how to charm an old Southern senator," one political insider explained. "It's all gooey. It makes me want to throw up."

Mrs Albright's blossoming relationship with Mr Helms is one of a number of factors that have made her the clear frontrunner to succeed Warren Christopher as Secretary of State in a second Clinton Administration.

Others are lining up for Mr Christopher's job, should President Clinton be re-elected in November, as looks likely. They include Richard Holbrooke, the former Bosnia troubleshooter now working on Wall Street; Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State; and Lee Hamilton, a Demo-



Albright wooing votes on Senate committee

WORLD SUMMARY

Liberian feud sets city ablaze

Monrovia: Fighting and looting erupted in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, yesterday after the Council of State ordered the arrest of a deposed warlord on murder charges.

Rival factions exchanged fire and set buildings ablaze when fighting spread to the city centre, particularly around barracks of the former national army.

The clashes began around the home of Roosevelt Johnson, a deposed faction leader, and forced thousands of civilians to flee. Council member Charles Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, said on radio: "The decision now is for the police to bring Mr Johnson to justice." (Reuters)

Iraq 'oil for food' talks to resume

New York: Talks on an "oil for food" scheme allowing Iraq to start selling crude for the first time since the Gulf War are due to resume in New York today (James Bone writes). Two rounds of talks have been held this year on the United Nations-approved proposal which would allow Iraq to sell up to \$1bn (£649 million) of oil every three months in order to raise money for food and medicines.

Fresh search for abducted Briton

Phnom Penh: The employer of a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian translator, who have been taken hostage by Khmer Rouge rebels, said it might launch its own search from Thailand. Archie McCarron, the director of the Mines Advisory Group in Cambodia, said that there had been "absolutely no news" of Christopher Howes, from Bristol, and Huon Houth. (AFP)

Island volcano erupts again

Plymouth, Montserrat: A volcano hurled tons of ash miles into the air, preventing evacuated islanders from retrieving belongings they had abandoned in Plymouth, the capital, after an eruption on Wednesday. It was the third eruption since the Soufrière Hills volcano became active in July, after hundreds of years of being dormant. (AP)

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Picnic at North Pole

By QUENTIN LETTS

ONE OF THE RICHEST WOMAN IN AMERICA WILL NEXT WEEK MAKE A PICNIC TRIP TO THE NORTH POLE TO HAVE A PICNIC AND TO FIND HERSELF.

Marylou Vanderbilt Whitney, a vivacious widow, has commissioned two small aircraft—one of them a fuel plane—to fly her and three companions to the Pole. They intend to alight, admire the view for an hour or so, and plant a flag.

Mrs Whitney, an acquaintance of the Prince of Wales, holds that "if you have some fears you need to conquer them", and that "money does not make you happy—it's the way you live life that is important". She hopes that the adventure will help her to "grow as a person". Mrs Whitney, who is believed to be nudging 70, has also organised the trip as a 91st birthday present to Norman Vaughan, who will be along for the ride.

Mr Vaughan is a former explorer who mushed dogs for Admiral Byrd on his trip to Antarctica in 1928. Mrs Whitney thought it would be "neat"



Marylou Whitney, pictured at a pet show, walking a friend's dalmatian

JPY 100000

**right tipped
top in next
Cabinet**

Alain Juppé

French

United

French

<

MONDAY APRIL 8

MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida

ALMEIDA

London

CABARET

London

21
Light Blue victory puts dark cloud over Oxford

23
Newcastle challenge hangs on wing and a prayer

29
Queen Mother returns for Irish conquest

30
Taking to the air in a leap of faith

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



Hill, the eventual winner, leads Schumacher, Alesi, Berger and the rest of the Formula One field through the opening lap of the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires. Photograph: Eduardo di Baia

Flawless drive leaves English challenger 18 points clear of field

Hill enjoys view from summit

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN BUENOS AIRES

TRouble stuck to him like glue last season, but this year problems are flowing around Damon Hill and moulding him into a smooth stone. If there were bumps and jolts on the uneven circuit here yesterday, he seemed to glide over them; if many of his principle rivals were ravaged by car sickness, he and his haughty Williams-Renault were jauntily immune. Nothing, it seems, is impeding his sprint towards his first Formula One drivers' world championship.

Hill made it three grand prix wins out of three this season here at this track on the northern outskirts of the city, sailing home a country mile ahead of his team-mate and closest challenger, Jacques Villeneuve, of Canada. After a metronomically effective race with no alarms, the Englishman is now 18 points clear in the race for the 1996 world title.

He led from start to finish, coasting, more than 12sec ahead of Villeneuve, who is being eased into the role of subservient team-mate in the face of Hill's mastery. In only his fourth season, Hill has now won 16 grands prix, the same number as Stirling Moss, and is closing on Nigel Mansell's record of five successive wins at the start of the 1992 season.

Hill was relentless, his Williams-Renault a class above the rest of the field in terms of both performance and reliability. As he pressed on and on, keeping a steady gap between himself and his pur-

to imagine it getting any better than this. The result represents the force that we have at the team and I am very happy."

Hill had made the perfect start from the thirteenth pole position of his career, a beginning that was a match for the near-flawless, controlled driving he had produced all weekend. As Villeneuve was engulfed by a sea of advancing rivals, slipping back to ninth by the end of the first lap, Hill hauled away from the front of the grid and left Schumacher trailing in his wake.

But the German had driven heroically all weekend, pushing himself and his car to its limits to fashion a lap-time so fast that he started alongside Hill on the front row. He had forced his equipment to the edge of its capabilities so that its nose cone twisted continually as it teetered on the brink of losing control.

For the first ten laps, everyone was transported back to the Hill-Schumacher duel of last season. After Hill had eked out a gap of 0.8sec in the first two laps, the world champion, who is having to dig deeper into the reserves of his ability than ever before as he rages against being consigned to a season as an also-ran, clawed his way back.

He set the fastest time on the sixth lap and brought himself to within half a second of Hill. He almost attempted a dive inside his rival on two or three occasions, but thought better of it. Schumacher stayed with Hill as long as he could but then, inexorably, Hill started to pull away. By the end of the seventeenth lap, the Englishman was more than 4sec ahead.

The leading positions remained the same after the front-runners made their first round of pit-stops soon after.

wards. But then a race which was threatening

Davies excels at messing about on the river

Someone had clearly lavished a lot of care in making it, but they had laboured in vain. "We love your 'tache, Des," proclaimed the home-made banner flying from the roof of the Putney block of flats and I'm sure Des Lynam was very grateful, but sadly — at least for its creator — it was Steve Rider's turn to do *Grandstand*. Lynam, you see, does the Grand National. Rider does the Boat Race. Worth remembering for next year, perhaps.

Last year, Rider bravely presented the programme from the Putney embankment, where he was almost lost in a unruly sea of beer mugs and college sweatshirts. This year, someone had sensibly put him on a boat-house balcony. Here the only real problem he had to contend with was being



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

not to have been thumped by Britain's greatest competing Olympian.

One of Rider's earlier guests was Chris Ballieu, Cambridge Blue, international oarsman and now BBC commentator, who dutifully said what he seems to say every year: "We really could be seeing a great race today, perhaps the best for many years." Sadly, the best race we saw on Saturday was a re-run of the 1980 Boat Race, provider of one of the closest finishes in Boat Race

history and the last to be commented on by the late John Snagge. Oxford held on to win by a canvas, but you would scarcely have known that by Snagge's wonderfully understated commentary. "This is an absolutely cracking race," marked the high-point of excitement.

Snagge, who died a fortnight ago, was a Boat Race institution. His current successor, Barry Davies, would like to become one and, just possibly, might. Davies, as we

know, is a *homme sérieux*, unswerving in his research, unswerving in his devotion to the appropriate literary quote (he managed Wordsworth at both the start and finish of the race). It is a style that can grate, but it is perfect for the Boat Race; a preposterously old-fashioned event that somehow still flourishes as a national institution.

Anyone can read an oarsman's height and weight off the programme's notes, but it takes the meticulously prepared Davies to tell us their histories, hobbies and engaging eccentricities. A competitor had only to mention that his father/grandfather had rowed in the race and the appropriate black and white clip would be wheeled out. It was all very impressive.

The one risk that Davies

SPORT IN BRIEF

McRae struggles in Makinen's wake

COLIN McRAE will want to put the Safari Rally, which finished in Kenya yesterday, behind him as quickly as possible. The Scottish world rally champion, plagued by suspension problems with his Subaru Impreza, struggled throughout the race, including a collision with a 12-year-old spectator on Saturday, and, after finishing in fourth place, complained: "It's not very enjoyable fighting for world championship points in conditions like this. There's too much down to luck here."

The race was won by Tommi Makinen, of Finland, in a Mitsubishi, his second win of the series extending his world championship lead. Although Makinen had not been expected to win on his first attempt at the championship's roughest and fastest rally, he pulled away from Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, on the last of the three days, surviving a tyre blow-out and a flash flood to beat Eriksson in his Subaru.

Tide turns for Marines

CANOEING: Mark Phillips and Richard Lewis snatched victory from Philippe Houttekiet and Bod Dewitter, of Belgium, on the final tidal stages of the Devizes to Westminster race yesterday. Leaving late on Friday afternoon and last of the 130 crews attempting the non-stop doubles race, Phillips and Lewis were placed fourth during the early stages, but, by Newbury, 35 miles into the race, had secured second place.

Houttekiet and Dewitter had established an early lead of 12 minutes, but, by Teddington, this had been cut to six and, as the crews passed under Westminster Bridge, Phillips and Lewis, of the Royal Marines, had taken the lead and established a two-minute margin. This was Phillip's third victory in succession, paddling with Lewis in 1994 and Tony Alan-Williams in 1995.

Doohan riding high

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, of Australia, right, the world 500cc champion, recovered from his disappointing start to the season by winning the Indonesian Grand Prix yesterday. Doohan, riding a Honda, finished fifth in the Malaysian Grand Prix, the opening race of the championship, last weekend, but made no mistake in Sentul, beating Alexandre Barross, of Brazil, by over 3sec.



Prean shows promise

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, the former English national champion, who has had his worst season since becoming an international player, did enough to suggest that he still has a considerable future in the game despite a defeat by Wang Tao, of China, in the last-16 stage of the English Open at Keistering yesterday. Prean, who has suffered from injury and loss of form in recent months, was a convincing winner against Allan Bentzen, a Danish international, on Saturday, before going out 21-12, 21-14, 21-14 to Wang, the world No 3.

Wolstenholme wins

GOLF: Gary Wolstenholme, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States last September, made a good start to the season when he won the prestigious Duncan Putter open tournament for the second time in three years at Southend yesterday. A 72-hole total of 291 gave Wolstenholme, a Bristol and Clifton golfer, a three-stroke victory over Matthew Ellis, the Wales international, from Wrexham, who, in turn, was three strokes in front of Mark Smith, another Welshman.

Lovatt breaks through

CYCLING: Mark Lovatt, usually cast in the role of a support rider with the powerful Optimum Performance squad, won the 84-mile third stage of the Girvan three-day race yesterday, with a finishing sprint that defeated David Williams, the 1994 national champion, and Kevin Dawson, his team-mate. It was a demanding day's racing, with three big climbs that tested the riders' strength. Williams starts the hilly 65-mile final run today as overall leader by 37sec from Lovatt.

Paulus springs surprise

TENNIS: Barbara Paulus, of Austria, right, beat Conchita Martinez, of Spain, the world No 2 and defending title-holder, 7-6, 6-4 to reach the final of the WTA Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, yesterday. Paulus was due to meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain — who beat Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2 in the last four — in the final.



Real reach crisis point

FOOTBALL: Real Madrid, six times the winners of the European Cup, are facing the prospect of exclusion from European competition for only the second time in their history. Real lost 1-0 at home to struggling Sporting Gijon yesterday, leaving them in seventh place in the Spanish league, four points away from a Uefa Cup qualifying position, with just seven games remaining. Real announced yesterday that they will decline any invitation to play in the Interiotto Cup this summer.

Montgomerie and Woosnam aim for rousing finish

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE and Ian Woosnam had little chance of catching David Duval, the leader, when the fourth round of the BellSouth Classic got under way at the Atlanta Country Club yesterday, but they were grateful for the chance to hone their games further in a competitive situation before driving to Augusta for this week's Masters. After their third rounds of 68, Montgomerie and Woosnam were on 215, one under par, nine strokes behind.

Duval's nearest challenger was Tommy Tolles, who finished second, level with Montgomerie, in The Players' Championship last week, one stroke ahead of Duval. It was the second week in a row in which these two men have been separated by two strokes after three rounds, but it was Tolles, 29, who led going into the fourth round in Jacksonville.

Duval had unhappy memories of the final round in this tournament. Four years ago, when still an amateur, he led after 54 holes before falling back to finish equal thirteenth, thanks to a fourth round of 79. "I was intimidated by the position I was in," Duval recalled. "I thought I was

ready for it, but I wasn't." Tolles is one of the finds of the season. With his dark eyes and short hair, there is an intense, burning look about him. Last year, he was 16th on the money-list; last week, he jumped to third.

As Montgomerie has played only 11 rounds so far this year and Woosnam only 27, neither is what you would call "over-golfed" and further putting practice on greens very similar

Golf scores 31

To Augusta's was just what the doctor ordered.

"Going early to Augusta and practising there is all very well," Sam Torrance had said on Friday, as he waited to see whether his 36-hole total of 146 would be good enough to beat the cut. "It's not bad at all," Montgomerie said on Saturday, though there was a knifing wind and rain clouds lurked ominously overhead.

Last year, Stephen Keppler, the former Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup player, and Jim Gallagher Jr, were tied for the lead after 54 holes, before being swept aside by a strong finish by Mark Calcavecchia.

They saw each other again last week at the start of the tournament. "See you on Sunday, same time, same place," Gallagher said to the Englishman. No such luck for Keppler this year. As Gallagher prepared for his first drive of the fourth round, Keppler was tangle with the 9th and looking momentarily like the club professional he is.

His third shot from the left rough flew out of the thick grass, over the green and into more clinging grass which was ankle-high. Pitching close out of there to a fast green that sloped away from him was more than Keppler could manage.

His first putt raced past the hole, gathering speed all the time. He missed the ten-footer coming back and, suddenly, he had taken a seven on an uphill par-four hole of 420 yards. Having begun the day at three over par, he had fallen back to eight over and walked towards the next tee without much enthusiasm and sighing wearily.

Second shot hit a tree and her third found deep rough off the green. She chipped to ten feet but missed a bogey putt, dropping to six under for the tournament. Sorenstam had more trouble on the par-five 17th when her approach missed the green. She finished with four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

Mucha and Schreyer each took a bogey and a double bogey. Mucha had five birdies in her round of 69 and Schreyer had an eagle and three birdies in shooting rounds of 68.

Sorenstam shares lead

ANNIKA SORENSTAM, the Swede, made two costly visits to the rough but held on to shoot a one-over-par 73 and share the lead after the third round of the Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic in Lincoln, California.

Sorenstam, who dominated women's golf last year, looked ready to take her first title of the season when she shot 66 for a two-shot lead at halfway, but she was caught by Cindy Schreyer and Barb Mucha at six-under-par 207.

Sorenstam's troubles began on the par-four 7th when her



Nicklaus, whose 65 included an albatross, acknowledges applause at the 18th

Nicklaus scores two at par five

HALE IRWIN responded to Jack Nicklaus's first albatross for 31 years with a seven-under par 65 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of The Tradition in Scottsdale, Arizona, yesterday.

Irwin, recovering from a 76 in the second round when erratic winds forced all but a handful of players over par, matched his opening round to post a three-round total of 206, ten under par. "I guess there was a little act of redemption on my part to make sure that the 76 was a fluke and the 65 on Thursday wasn't," Irwin.

His 340-yard drive on the short par five left him 159 yards to the flag. He pulled out an eight-iron and landed the ball on the front of the green from where it rolled into the hole.

It was his third albatross — or double eagle as the Americans term it. The first came while he was a teenager while the second was at the Jacksonville Open in 1965.

Nicklaus two-punted from 16 feet on the last hole for his fifth birdie.

Raymond Floyd, who won this title in 1994, started the final round a shot behind J. C. Snead, who was third on 208.

yards to the flag. He pulled out an eight-iron and landed the ball on the front of the green from where it rolled into the hole.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, also shot a 65. After finishing first and sixth in two previous Senior Tour events this year, he came out of the pack with a remarkable run over the closing nine holes.

Four under at the turn, he birdied the 11th, then gobbed up Irwin's lead with two monstrous shots on the 12th hole of the Cochise Course, one of four Nicklaus has

designed at Desert Mountain.

His 340-yard drive on the short par five left him 159

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final round a shot behind J. C.

Snead, who was third on 208.

Martin retains her crown after outstanding final



BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

MICHELLE MARTIN took her fourth successive British Open squash title at the Cardiff International Arena last night, defeating Sarah FitzGerald, her Australian compatriot, 1-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7 in a 46-minute match that was widely regarded one of the best in the 75-year history of the event.

Martin, the No 1 seed, had to survive a determined fightback from 8-3 to 8-7 by FitzGerald, the No 2 seed, in the fourth game, but then clinched the title with a penalty stroke in the fourth court.

In that counter-attack, FitzGerald produced the same level of fierce driving and tenacious retrieving that took her to a 9-1 complexion of the opening game in just five minutes. At

the end of that game, Martin was making repeated forehand errors to the tin, but, in the second, she took immediate control of the court to lead 4-0.

It was obvious then that the two Australians, who have dominated the women's circuit in recent times, were about to present the Cardiff crowd with one of their great encounters. Three early penalty strokes against FitzGerald helped Martin, the defending champion, to take a 7-4 lead in the second game. A penalty stroke less well judged by William Winter, the referee, and a nolet decision at game ball ended FitzGerald's hopes.

The third game produced nine minutes of competitive rallying which Martin, rather surprisingly, won 9-1. Martin led 9-3 in the fourth and it

looked all over, but FitzGerald had other ideas, dragging herself back point by point to 9-7.

She survived five match-balls, broke her racket on the floor in frustration after missing a backhand boast that she knew she should have volleyed and finally lost the chance of a full game when Winter favoured the champion with a penalty stroke, the delay on which arguably deserved only a let.

Early enterprise featured in both men's semi-finals on Saturday, with Julien Bonnet and Brett Martin each stealing the opening games before failing to the top seeds, Jansher Khan and Rodney Eyles, respectively.

Bonnet, the world No 18, had become the first French semi-finalist in the event with a brilliant performance against Paul Johnson in the quarter-

finals. He staggered the defending champion by finishing the first game with a disguised forehand short boast that had the normally secure Pakistani sprawling, and surprised him again with a dangerous counter-attack from 12-4 to 12-9 in a single hand of the second, before subduing 12-15, 15-9, 15-6 in 58 minutes.

Martin, the elder brother of the women's champion, finished his first game with a backhand cross-court nick of extraordinary power and accuracy, but was increasingly inhibited from 7-7

in the second game by a leg problem, stemming from an ankle weakened by a collision with Del Harris in the PSA Super Series final two weeks ago.

Eyles, the world No 18, had become the first English semi-finalist in the event with a brilliant performance against Paul Johnson in the quarter-

finals. He staggered the defending champion by finishing the first game with a disguised forehand short boast that had the normally secure Pakistani sprawling, and surprised him again with a dangerous counter-attack from 12-4 to 12-9 in a single hand of the second, before subduing 12-15, 15-9, 15-6 in 58 minutes.

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Bond holds nerve to take final step

BY PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND, successful in only one match at his previous six snooker tournaments of 1996, continued to erase the memory of that abysmal run by beating David Harold 6-5 to reach the final of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Bond, a laconic 30-year-old from Darley Dale, edged Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the last 16 by holding himself together in a tense deciding frame and it was that quality that enabled him to emerge victorious from an error-strewn contest with Harold.

Such a result seemed a million miles away when Bond, the world No 12, arrived

O'Sullivan or John Higgins by dominating the next two.

Chance for St Helens to build on fine start

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

UNDER Shaun McRae, St Helens have achieved in three months what had been beyond them for years, first reaching the rugby league Challenge Cup final on April 27, and then breaking a long sequence of defeats by Wigan last Friday.

A habit St Helens have of gaining a fine win, then making a fine mess of things in their next match, is one that their Australian coach is anxious to see end today in the noon encounter at Leeds.

It is possible that St Helens could have an early outright lead in the Stones Super League by tonight. Only two other sides are unbeaten, but Warrington face the inevitable Wigan backlash at Central Park and London Broncos will travel with some trepidation to Bradford Bulls, the other Wembley finalists.

The team is largely the one

Super League fixtures 31

he inherited from his predecessor, but where the unfortunate Eric Hughes got it wrong, McRae, so far, has got things quickly right, getting St Helens back to Wembley after five years and beating Wigan for the first time since the 1993 Premiership final.

McRae is blessed with some excellent talent at Knowsley Road. However, orchestration is required to get good soloists to make music together and McRae's direction has brought far greater harmony in areas of defence where St Helens were vulnerable. In six matches, he has yet to lose.

The one player McRae has brought in, Derek McVey, a second-row forward from Sydney Tigers, had an enormous bearing on the 41-26 defeat of Wigan. A repeat of his rampaging running and off-loading of the ball under pressure can only do further damage to a Leeds side showing obvious strains.

Leeds and Warrington Town are the only sides to have lost their two opening games. Castleford Tigers denied Leeds with a last-minute try on Friday and there had been boozing at Headingley

court, one of only 37 in the world, is plainly in need of refurbishment. The damage has been inflicted during more than a century of activity in an arena that is said to be used more often than any other except at Queen's, the headquarters of the sport.

Converted into a basketball court by the Americans during the war (the doorway was filled in and another was hacked out of the side wall), it is to be repaired during the summer at a cost of £4,000.

Clifton are also in the process of re-establishing their prowess in rackets.

None of their individuals

has claimed the Foster Cup, the national schools championship, since 1990. The winner then was Matthew Windows, now a county cricketer with Gloucestershire. One of his former rivals, Toby Sawrey-Cookson, has since changed allegiances.

A semi-finalist in the Foster Cup, he was a contemporary of Windows at Wellington and is the professional in charge of guiding Clifton's resurgence.

"The standard among the seniors is weak at the moment," he conceded, "but there are some promising juniors coming through."

In view of the current comparatively low status, he was initially bemused by the visit of an outsider, Sawrey-

Cookson, 23, was too bashful to disclose that he is the British under-24 doubles champion, a title he won with Jonathan Larkin in January, and is rated unofficially in singles as the ninth-best player.

The competitive field is restricted. He competes in no more than half-a-dozen tournaments a year and the re-

wards are equally limited. He estimates that the overall prize-money he has earned in three years as a professional amounts to a mere £1,300.

He pointed out that the winner of the British Open,

one of the three titles that have to be won by anyone with pretensions to challenging the world champion, receives some £800. It is not as if the equipment is cheap either.

Even a moderate racket can cost as much as £40.

The teenage experience of

marker, Budd, behind a midfield sweeper, Thompson, the captain, Thompson's inaccurate distribution did not make the most of lively performances in front of him by Pett and Evans in midfield and Millar up front.

Loosemore headed Oxford in front after a quarter of an hour from a corner by Jens-Peter Hanssen, who had earlier hit the angle of the posts.

After Pett and Hayward had missed chances for Cambridge, Oxford pressed for the remainder of the first half and went two up soon after the hour when Smith rounded Park and shot home from an acute angle. Millar scored ten minutes from the end from a penalty for a handling offence and thereafter Cambridge wasted openings for a draw with ragged shooting.

Only half a dozen players showed natural ability and Evans, who has professional experience with Luton, was

named man of the match.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: Paul (St John's), S. Bell (Emm Lane), R. Henderson (Cara Hall), M. Budd (Gron), A. Thompson (St Catharine's, captain), White (Trinity Hall), Pett (Jesus), K. Hayward (Jesus), M. Evans (Huntingdon), R. Miller (St John's), R. Morris (Crusaders).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: North, captain, J. Pett (Jesus), J. White (Trinity Hall), R. Washington (St Edmund Hall), P. Warren (New College), D. Lovell (Jesus), J. Parker (Jesus), C. H. Bassett (Jesus College), J. H. H. H. (St Antony's), M. Goff (Ouseburn), H. Hansen (Corpus Christi).

since we took the club over," he said after the Royals had stumped to a 93-77 defeat by the Sharks. "I am 100 per cent confident of being in the league next season."

Like most owners, Razzaq

welcomes the new ruling that will permit clubs to field five foreign players from next season.

"It's the best thing that could ever have happened to this league," he said. "We want to encourage English players as much as we can, but they shouldn't be in a comfort zone of being guaranteed places just because they are English."

"I would like to feel that we have made some progress

collected 23 points for the Royals, who trailed throughout chiefly because the Sharks had, in his compatriot, Todd Caithorn, the score of 25 points, the game's outstanding performer.

Roger Higgins kept the English flag flying with his contribution of 24 points for the Sharks. That was two less than Peter Scantlebury — who he recently succeeded as England captain — accumulated for Thames Valley Tigers in their 108-96 home loss to the champions, London Towers.

Mark Robinson's 40 for Manchester Giants in their 109-97 win over Chester Jets was the best individual tally of the weekend.

Furlan clinches Italian victory

RENZO FURLAN'S victory

over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in Rome yesterday

gave Italy a place in the Davis

Cup semi-finals for the first

time in 16 years. Cheered on

by 6,000 supporters in the

Foro Italico, Furlan won 3-6,

6-0, 7-6, 6-2 in 2hr 42min to

establish a winning 3-1

margin.

"We have won a great

match," Adriano Panatta, the

Italians' captain, said before

he was hoisted on to the

shoulders of jubilant team

members. "Now let's move on

to the semi-finals against

France. It's a very open

competition."

France, who had already

qualified at Germany's ex-

pense when Guy Forget and

Arnaud Boetsch beat Boris

Becker and Marc Gicquel in

Saturday's doubles, completed a 5-0 whitewash in Limoges

over Forget and Cedric

Pioline scored singles victories

over David Prinosil and

Hendrick Dreekman. They

are in the semi-finals for the

first time since 1991. The

Germans were without Mich-

ael Stich while Becker played

only in the doubles because of

a respiratory infection.

Sweden completed a 5-0

rout of India on grass in

Calcutta and will now meet the

Czech Republic, who

gained a 3-2 win over the

United States in Prague when Petr Korda beat MaliVai Washington 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.



High-flying Lee Jones, left, leads Matthew Dent and Mark Wooldridge over the hums and bumps in a thrilling heat at the Mid-Hants moto-cross championships at Thruxton yesterday, where many of the leading riders in the United Kingdom were competing. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Clifton court success against the odds

By STUART JONES

IN a different context, the black, pock-marked walls might have been used to illustrate a day's shelling in a war zone. Apart from the presence of numerous scuff marks, as though hails of bullets had ricocheted off the surface, three gaping holes suggested heavier artillery had been at work.

Clifton College's rackets court, one of only 37 in the world, is plainly in need of refurbishment. The damage has been inflicted during more than a century of activity in an arena that is said to be used more often than any other except at Queen's, the headquarters of the sport.

Converted into a basketball court by the Americans during the war (the doorway was filled in and another was hacked out of the side wall), it is to be repaired during the summer at a cost of £4,000.

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None of their individuals



Schools results 31

wards are equally limited. He estimates that the overall prize-money he has earned in three years as a professional amounts to a mere £1,300.

He pointed out that the winner of the British Open, one of the three titles that have to be won by anyone with pretensions to challenging the world champion, receives some £800. It is not as if the equipment is cheap either.

Even a moderate racket can cost as much as £40.

The teenage experience of

the chairman of the Boasters, the club which uses the court at Clifton during the evenings, exemplifies the potential expense. In one term at Harrow, Claude Rome broke 57 rackets and ran up a bill that exceeded the school fees.

Eton, represented by all four semi-finalists in the last Foster Cup, remain the dominant force. With two courts and 1,100 pupils, they have a distinct numerical advantage. Girls, none of whom play rackets, form almost half of Clifton's 650 students.

More popular pastimes are rugby (Kevin Bowring was the director of sport until he left to take up his post as the Wales coach) and cricket. A plaque commemorates the world record achieved by A. E. J. Collins who scored 629 runs on this ground in 1899.

Nevertheless, Sawrey-Cookson, who is the son of a former student, believes that Clifton could in a couple of years challenge the likes of Eton, Harrow and Tonbridge. He is depending on the continuing development of three young

players — Nathan Thevathasan, George Buck and Daniel Kane. Thevathasan had never played the game before he arrived from Sri Lanka. Nor had Buck, whose father was a headmaster in Kenya. By the time they are seniors, their tutor expects to be reaching his own peak. He lost in the first round of the British Open last month, but to the eventual champion, James Male, who is also world champion.

Sawrey-Cookson, who admits that his oft 2in frame may be larger than the ideal for rackets, competed last week with Larkin in the British Open doubles championship at Queen's. His regular partner will also assist him to prepare for his debut in the US Open later this month.

They will practise in the crumpling court, receiving the customary lets whenever the ball veers off the edges of the holes. Clifton's students will shortly be seeking perfection there as well, and not only in their physical activities. The room also houses the GCSE examinations.

Ranatunga ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SRI LANKA'S cricket captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, 32, who led his side to victory over Australia in the World Cup final last month, is to step down. In a newspaper interview yesterday, Ranatunga said it was time he handed over the reins.

"I think I've done my bit having been captain since 1989," Ranatunga said. The left-handed batsman, who first represented his country as an 18-year-old schoolboy, nominated his vice-captain, Aravinda de Silva, as his successor. "With his experience and capabilities, he will handle the team very well," Ranatunga said.

His announcement came on the day that Sri Lanka lost to Pakistan by 43 runs in the final of the Singer Cup in Singapore, but not before their swashbuckling opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, had established another one-day batting record. He struck a half-century from only 17 balls — one less than the previous record held by the Simon O'Donnell, of Australia. As Sri Lanka chased a victory target of 216.

There were five sixes and eight fours in Jayasuriya's innings of 76 from 28 deliveries, but, when he was out, Sri Lanka collapsed on a pitch that gave the off spinner, Saqlain, all the help he needed to turn the game.

In Kingsland, St Vincent, Brian Lara and Phil Simmons scored centuries as West Indies beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the deciding one-day international to take the series by three matches to two. Lara struck 104 and Simmons 103 not out, adding 186 in a third-wicket partnership that began with West Indies struggling at 31 for two in reply to New Zealand's 241 for eight.

It was Lara's ninth one-day century and his second of the series. He hit a six and ten fours from the 103 balls he received.

West Indies needed 25 runs off the remaining nine overs after Lara's dismissal and Simmons saw them home. His fifth one-day hundred included two sixes and ten fours off 125 balls. He finished the match by pulling Cairns to the fine-leg boundary off the third delivery of the penultimate over.

Scoreboards, page 31

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What could the Scottish possibly hate more than losing money? Losing their first game of the season to the English. Venue: White Hart Lane, Tottenham • Home games: April 14, May 6, May 19, May 27, June 16 • Pre-game Power Party at 12.00pm • Kick-off at 3.00pm • Courtesy shuttle bus with return service from Seven Sisters tube • Half-price admission for children 12 and under • Season tickets: 5 for the price of 4 • Ticket orders are subject to agency booking fees.

LONDON MONARCHS

Ranatunga
ready to
hand over
captaincy
to de Silva

By Chris Spargo

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

Point-to-point should build on increase in standards

If you like betting on the jump jockeys' championship and are looking for a winner around the year 2000, get to a point-to-point this weekend.

Had you done so last year you might well have had a ticket at a decent price about Richard Johnson being a champion one day. Since he is now a professional and has displayed his talents on Mr Mulligan this season, that seems a good bet.

Those looking for similar opportunities should now consider Peter Henley, an assistant to Robert Alner, and Robert Thornton, who, like Johnson, is learning his trade with David Nicholson. They are two who have caught the eye.

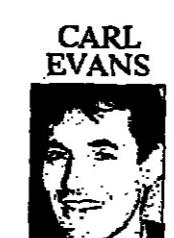
Neither man is likely to win the national point-to-point title; Johnson's total of seven wins in points last year was less than a quarter of the total ridden by champion Alastair Crow, a Shropshire farmer.

They will learn plenty about racing which will stand them in good stead when they turn professional, and since both can ride at under 10st and are fitted, they will in time.

What Henley and Thornton visibly represent today is a general improvement in standards within the sport. Behind the scenes fiery yards, point-to-point equivalents of licensed (professional) yards, have flourished in the last ten years, bringing new owners into the sport who cheerfully pay the weekly bills but expect a decent service from their trainer and rider.

If someone hopes to ride for a fiery yard they have to be competent, and when Henley or Thornton are sitting alongside it is easy to spot the less gifted jockeys. If you cannot beat them, you join them, and riders have had to become fitter, learn how to tack down in the saddle, practice their finish and seek advice. For some it comes naturally; others have to try a little harder.

The sport is increasingly the entity which it always claimed but rarely looked: a nursery



Racing commentary

Dare takes title lead with Ledbury double

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

ONE of the sport's most enduring partnerships is back on top. Alison Dare and trainer Dick Bainbridge make a formidable team and at the Ledbury meeting on Saturday they paired up for a double to take her tally for the season to 17 and a clear lead in the women's championship.

Pip Jones is now one behind after victory on Lucy Ole Son at the Liangibby, but Polly Curing suffered two falls without adding to her score of 15 at the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale.

Dare, 38, has been riding winners for Bainbridge since 1980, quietly collecting five riders' titles on the way.

Her record this year, after victories on Landsker Alfred and Split Second, reads 17 wins, a second, third, fourth and fifth with one fall from 22 rides. "To think this time last

year I felt like giving up," she said, her gloom at that time being caused by a broken leg.

Andrew Parker kept his men's title hopes alive with his eighteenth win of the season at 12st 7lb, instead of 12st, would help the many well-built steeplechasers who want to take part, and preserve the next generation of volunteers.

Frankie Dettori took the honours at Haydock Park on Saturday when he rode a four-timer. Dettori, called up by Mark Johnston with the stable jockey Jason Weaver on duty at Kempton Park, won on Double Eclipse in the opening race — the BNFL Inside Conditions Stakes — and went on to successes in the next three races on Taipan, who dead-heated with Lombardic Westcourt Magic and Herodian.

At Newbury on Sunday, Dettori, 21, stayed on the track to ride a double, while his partner, 22, was off to the races.

He is the first jockey to do this since 1970, when Tony McCoy did it at Sandown.

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Regiment's march earns Webster another stripe

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CAPTAIN of British industry emerged yesterday as one of the luckiest racehorse owners in the land after Regiment marched into 2,000 Guineas reckoning by winning the Easter Stakes at Kempton on Saturday.

David Webster, deputy chairman of the Argyll group, which includes the Safeway supermarket chain, only became interested in racing four years ago when he met Harry Herbert, who manages Highclere Thoroughbred Racing, and bought a share in one of his syndicates.

A stroke of good fortune saw Webster become part-owner of Lake Coniston, the outstanding July Cup winner, and the useful Numbered Account — and his total investment of £9,000 ended in dividends of around £80,000.

Now lightning appears to have struck in the same place twice as Webster has bought a share in a syndicate which owns Regiment, trained by Richard Hannan, who quickly decided decisively inside the final

furlong to land the classic trial and a first prize of £12,000.

"David Webster originally became involved because my then wife-to-be, Chica, was a professional caterer who organised directors' lunches. He always used to pop his head round the door afterwards to say thank you and Chica asked one day if he was interested in racing. He now

lives in Texas, Michael Brower who started the Garfunkels restaurant chain, and Lord Hambleden are three other members of the 30-strong Regiment syndicate who also owned part of Lake Coniston.

Apart from highlighting the success of Herbert's operation, Regiment's victory is also testimony to the shrewd buying skills of John Warren, who bought Lake Coniston for \$22,000 as a yearling and spent just £12,000 on Regiments' sales.

Hannan has now won the Easter Stakes four times in five years and he rates the son of Shaadi as good as Lucky Lindy, who went on from Kempton in 1992 to finish runner-up to Rodrigo De Triano in the 2,000 Guineas.

The trainer said: "He's got a turn of foot and we were worried about him staying because he has shown so much speed at home. In fact,

he's been working with our sprinters and we had to come here to find out if he gets a mile. He's more of a speed horse than Lucky Lindy but he looks a proper Guineas horse now that he gets the trip."

A 100-l shot on Saturday morning for the first colt-classic, he was trimmed to 33-l by Coral and William Hill after his length success over Centre Stage, with Elshabih the same distance away in third. The ten runners dawdled early on and the final time was slower than that clocked by the fillies in the Masaka Stakes, which suited Regiment admirably.

Another captain of industry, Lord Weinstock of GEC, had every reason to be pleased after Sea Spray came out top in a blanket finish to the Masaka Stakes, although it is unlikely the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained daughter of Royal Academy will take on Bosra Sham and Blue Duster at Newmarket. The Irish 1,000 Guineas is a more likely option.

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Webster added: "I am still very much a novice, but it's been tremendous fun and I have introduced a very good friend to one of his syndicates. Luck obviously plays an enor-

mous part but I have friends who look on with real envy at what I have achieved."

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It took just one lesson for Jennai Cox to perform a single forward somersault

Why one jump on a trampoline will set you bouncing

Trampolining demands grace and power; it takes effort to look sleek when soaring up to 25ft from the trampoline bed. The sheer exhilaration can be addictive.

Rebound tumbling, as trampolining was once more commonly known, is a relatively new sport. Its origins lie with the Eskimos — postcards at Anchorage airport, Alaska, depict them tossing each other about on walrus skins. In Britain early this century acrobats performed comedy routines on bouncing beds and, according to circus lore, the trampoline was developed by an artist named Dr Trampolin who saw potential in the trapeze safety net.

In the 1930s George Nissen, an American tumbling and diving champion, built one of the earliest trampolines in his garage for training and, soon after, entertainment. With the help of physical education experts he devised textbooks, lesson plans and training courses. The sport took off.

The rapid spread of trampolining to countries such as Poland, Japan, Switzerland and South Africa can be explained by its enjoyable simplicity. No special skill or physique is required to start and that first bound can be tried at any age. Two or three minutes of jumping is as good aerobic exercise as the same time spent running and is also a form of plyometrics: according to sports scientists this type of explosive jumping develops the strength required to hold the body in flight and helps to resist the force of landings. Trampolining is also used as supplementary training by divers and gymnasts.



My 20-minute lesson, taken by Rob Walker, chief executive of the British Trampoline Federation (BTF), in Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, incorporated some of the elements taught in the first six months. Any newcomer starts with gentle jumping and learning how to stop bending your knees on descent. The first few minutes of bouncing was like experiencing consecutive air pockets on an aeroplane; as close as you get to the feeling of unaided flying.

But like real flying, trampolining is more technical. Since the simple somersault of the 1940s, moves have advanced to triple-twisting double somersaults. Competition moves include the barani, a seat drop with half a twist; the cody, a back somersault landing on the stomach; the triflips, a double somersault with a twist; and the triflips, a triple somersault. Some competitors have recently managed quadruple somersaults.

I stuck to the seat drop which entailed jumping and dropping into a sitting position before standing again. This had to be done without bending my legs, making sure my bottom landed on the

marked cross in the middle of the trampoline while ensuring that my fingers were turned towards my pointed toes, to prevent broken wrists. It required far more concentration than I had expected.

Nor was I prepared for the

complete lack of control or balance in mid-air. Trying to regain this with leg or arm movements proved hopeless. I ended up almost crashing into Walker, who sat on safety mats ahead of me. The incident did though explain why

during the Second World War American pilots and navigators used the trampoline to practise orientation and why astronauts working for the Space Flight programme use them to experience variable body positions in flight.

Walker says, when you are throwing your body weight around, you have to be aware of everything around you.

With the help of Walker — who, at 63, still somersaults — and his son, Jeff, another trampolining coach, I was able to finish my lesson with a single forward somersault.

'Well, I have never seen anyone do it like that before,' I was told. 'I'll be back to try again.'

It was the physical benefits of trampolining realised during the war that convinced PE teachers of its possibilities. A year after Jimmy Garner became the first US champion in 1948, the first trampoline officially used for physical education was installed in Loxford School in Ilford, Essex. About 600,000 people now trampoline each week with more than 1,500 sports centres and 2,000 secondary schools holding sessions.

There was never any doubt Faldo's courage and his performances in the singles in the Ryder Cup in the 1990s brought him home, never more so than at Oak Hill last year.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement - for honours won and overall record

Dominance - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers

Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image

Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence

Impact - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96. Entries are open to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline on 0891 66 65 44. Lines are open from 8pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest*, Week 4, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
BARRY JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/>					
NICK FALDO	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Name _____						
Address _____						
Daytime telephone _____						
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual <i>Times</i> competition rules apply.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or <i>The Times</i>						



Jump for joy: Fern Ellis, 9, at Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, is one of 600,000 Britons who trampoline each week



BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

+1062
VS
AQ84
KJ673

OKQJ94 N
VGS732 W
992 S
5 E

A3
AK104
K73
A1092

W N E S
Pass 2C Pass 1H 3NT
1S All Pass

Contract: 3 NT by South
Lead: king of spades

I held the South hand. My 3 NT bid was a crude effort — more sacrifice would be to bid Two Spades. However, I have a horror of getting involved in that sort of sequence, particularly at rubber bridge with a doubtful partner, where too much sophistication can lead to disastrous misunderstandings.

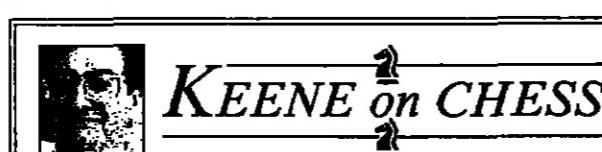
When dummy went down, I was uncomfortably aware that I had done the wrong thing — if the clubs divide, Six Clubs makes; even if they do not, the contract will still make if diamonds are 3-3.

On the king of spades, dummy played low and East played the five. I ducked and won the next spade. What should I do?

Hoping to get some clues, I played off ace and king of hearts and three rounds of diamonds, on the third of which West threw a heart. I still could not tell whether he was 5-4-2-1 or 5-5-2-1, and I decided to play for clubs 2-2.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannia Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Teenage triumph
Ruth Sheldon, one of Great Britain's brightest girl players, has added an illustrious scalp to her collection. In the London Chess Centre Quickplay tournament last weekend, she inflicted a crushing defeat on Dr John Nunn, Britain's No 4 player and noted tactician.

Nunn is noted as an outstanding connoisseur of the King's Indian Defence, but, in this game, Sheldon tied him up in knots on the queenside before delivering the coup de grace. Records indicate that, at the age of 15, Sheldon is the youngest female player in the country to have defeated a grandmaster.

White: Ruth Sheldon
Black: Dr John Nunn
London Chess Centre
Quickplay, March 1996

King's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 d6
5 Be2 0-0
6 Nf3 e5
7 d5 Ng4
8 Be3 Nf6
9 Bg5 f6
10 Bf4 Nf6
11 Nd2 Nh6
12 0-0 Ce8
13 a3 Bd7
14 b3 f5
15 f3 Nf7
16 Rb1 Nh6
17 Bf2 Nc6
18 b4 Na4
19 axb4 Qe7
20 Qc2 Ra8
21 Nb5 Rf8
22 Ra1

Diagram of final position

During the game, Anatoly Karpov has become an "honorary member" of President Slobodan Milošević's ruling Socialist party in Belgrade. Meanwhile, Israel has threatened to leave Fide, the World Chess Federation, if the championship match between Karpov and Kasparov goes ahead in Baghdad.

Times chess book
Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

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WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JAM
A school of whales

A task

A leg

INGLYMUS

A unidirectional joint
The short-eared bat
Mild delirium tremens

FORFEX
a. The pincers of an earwig

b. A proprietary toupee fixative

c. Excommunication

GRUNDY

a. A variety of hornblende

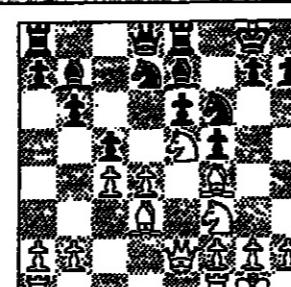
b. A cadger

c. A conventional bigot

Answers on page 34

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine. This position is from the game Alekhine — Feldt, Tarnopol, 1916. In this position, Alekhine exploited the slight weakness of the e-square to manufacture a wonderful winning combination. Can you see how?

Solution, page 34



Karpov's move

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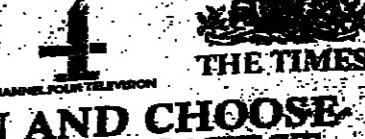
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THE GREATEST



TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the chance to vote for the greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson. The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the fifth show in the 12-part series. The cast includes Jackie Stewart, Uniford Christie, Bobby Moore, Tony Gwynne, Mary Rand and Ian Botham of the 20-strong panel of experts. Each week two contenders are eliminated and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of Total Sport, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Tony Hume). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Barry John and Nick Faldo. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

BARRY JOHN
Barry John - none of them possessed quite the languid touch of John at the height of his powers. There seemed no strain, no obvious speed in his running, rather he ghosted past defenders who seemed rooted to the spot. His goal-kicking was the simplest of routines when compared with some of today's convoluted approaches. New Zealanders had good cause to remember him when he helped the British Isles to their only series win there, in 1971; they called him 'The King', a sobriquet which, in the end, helped create his premature retirement at 27, after six years and 25 caps.

The 1971 Lions were the first of rugby's touring sides from the northern hemisphere to create an impression beyond the sports own public and life in the goldfish bowl was not for John, the West Welshman who played for Cardiff. He played one more international season, created a Welsh record of 96 career points and retired to avoid the adulation which has pursued so many of the players from that golden era of the dragon.

NICK FALDO
Nick Faldo's three Opens, in 1987, 1990 and 1992, and victories in the US Masters of 1989 and 1990 may seem small beer when compared with the victories in a glorious few months in 1990 in the Open and Amateur Championships of the United States and Britain by the legendary amateur, Bobby Jones, and Jack Nicklaus' 28 major championships between 1959 and 1988. Faldo's five, however,

represent the best performance by a British golfer since the early days of the 20th century. Faldo's career burned fiercest during a remarkable run starting in July 1987 and ending in August 1992. In that time he not only won those five majors, but he was the most feared name in golf. Between June 1988 and August 1992 he was never worse than 19th in a major championship. He was a byword for steadiness.

He made his name as a world-class professional after altering his swing in the mid-Eighties. Hitherto it had been elegant but, judged by the highest standards, rather loose and prone to failure when it was under the greatest pressure. He actually lasted for two years. Thereafter, however, he knew he had built himself a technique that rarely let him down.

There was never any doubt Faldo's courage and his performances in the singles in the Ryder Cup in the 1990s brought him home, never more so than at Oak Hill last year.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

PLANNING A
BUSINESS
 IN 1996?
 LOOKING FOR AN
 (without affecting your day)
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 CHALLENGE!**



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A fan's fight for his hero

Cinderella Man. Radio 5 Live, 10.05pm.

I had never heard of Paddy Monaghan, what he did for Muhammad Ali and what the boxer did for him. Ulster-born Monaghan, boxer, knuckle fighter and builder's labourer, hero-worshipped Ali. When the champion was stripped of his title because of his anti-Vietnam stance, Monaghan organised a petition in Britain demanding the title be restored to him. A grateful Ali invited him to the US. They became close friends. At Ali's big fights, Monaghan was invariably in his corner. At Christmas time, the champion visited his cash-strapped children. John Salthouse, Dennis Waterman and Monaghan himself told this scarcely believable story.

Monday Play: Uganda. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

The imagined sound I kept hearing as I listened to Judith Johnson's play was the rattle of drawbridges being raised and portcullises being lowered. *Uganda* is about people who can neither physically nor mentally cut themselves off from the rest of the world. The principal recipient is the ailing widower (Ronald Pickup) whose only travelling is done with a world atlas on his lap. He has marked out his territory and his route just as surely as his caring daughter (Shari Pates) has marked out hers. Right up until the play's final lines, this fixing of personal borders remains the left-most of *Uganda*, an emotionally satisfying play.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Charlie Jordan 6.30 Kevin Greening 11.30 Radio 1 12.30 Clubland 12.30 Rock Candy 3.30 Clive Carroll 3.30 and the Salmon 10.00 7.00 Radio 1 Sound City 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Loyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 3.00am Alan Lester 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.20 Walk Up to Wigan 6.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 The Dean Martin Show 1.00pm The Music and Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.30 John Durn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock 7.30 Dance of the Days, and at 11.30, *Evening Special* 9.00, *Midnight Special* 10.30 *Radio Days* 10.30 *The Jimmies* 12.00am *Steve Madden*, Indi Pauses for Thought at 1.30 5.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl. 5.45 *Wake Up to Money* 6.00 *The Breakfast Programme* 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 *The Magazine*, incl. 10.30 News from Europe; 11.35 *Dirt News*: Special 12.05 *Sport On Five*, FA Carling Premiership, football, rugby league: Leads v Hull, Huddersfield, the final results of the FA Cup, *Wembley Cup* Championship 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Wembley Winners 1970 — Chelsea v Leeds 8.00 The Monday Match, *Blackburn v Newcastle* 10.05 *Cinderella Man*, *Sex Choice* 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 *The Financial World* Tonight 12.05am *The Other Side of Midnight* 2.05 Up All Night

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 *The Hall of Fama Weekend* 7.00 *Celebrity Choice* (r) 6.00 Evening Concert, *Includes*, *Brahms and Chopin* (Prom and Concerto) March No 1 in D, *Bruck* (Suite) — May 10.00 *Michael Haydn* 1.00am *Mel Cooper*

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am *Russ 'n' Jon* 6.00 *Richard Skinner* 12.00 *Graham Dene* 4.00pm *Nicky Home* 7.30 *Paul Coyle* 10.00 *James Whale* 1.00-6.00am *Ian Collins*

RADIO 3

6.00am *On Air: Vivaldi* (Violin Concerto in A minor, Op 7 No 4; Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E minor, Op 23); Appassionata, Bar (Magnificat; Nunc dimittis); Debussy (Flâneur, Images); Bizet (The Pearl Fishers Act 1, excerpt); Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K 551)

9.00am *Morning Collection*, with Catriona Young, John Adams (Two Fairies), *Includes*, *Locomotion* (Steam Rides in a Fast Machine); Chopin (Two Polonaises, Op 26); Bruch (Scottish Fantasy)

10.00am *Musical Encounters*, includes Wagner (Overture: Das Liebesverbot); Debussy (Premier recouvre for clarinet and piano); 1983 Artist of the Week: Beethoven, piano, plays Liszt (Etudes d'exécution transcendante Nos 1-3, 10-32 Bach (Cantata No 12: Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen); Rubinstein (Cello Sonata No 2 in G); Mozart (An perlonda al primo attimo La Clemenza di Tito); Berg (Orfeo ed Euridice, 2nd mvt.)

11.15am *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment*, under Helmuth Rilling, Haydn: Cello Concerto No 1 in C; Mozart (Symphony No 31 in D, K 293, Parc); Wagenseil (Quartet No 4 in A for three cellos and double bass); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C)

12.00pm *Composer of the Week*: Georg Muffat, includes, Suite: Nobilis Juventus (Florilegium II); Toccata No 7 in C (Apparatus musicorum, Op 1, No 1)

1.00pm *Ulster Orchestra*, conducted by John Lubbock, Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor, The Hen); Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 2); Ries (Symphony No 3 in E flat)

2.10pm *London Quartet*, Mozart (Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K 546); Haydn (String Quartet in E flat, Op 33, No 2)

3.00pm *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment*, under Helmuth Rilling, Haydn: Cello Concerto No 1 in C; Mozart (Symphony No 31 in D, K 293, Parc); Wagenseil (Quartet No 4 in A for three cellos and double bass); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C)

4.15pm *Choral Heaven and Hell*, a daily portrait of Jerusalem, with Michael Kustow

9.35am *A Cantata for Easter*, Monday, Bach (Cantata No 6: Bleib bei uns, dann es will Abend werden)

10.00am *Ensemble*, Mozart (Violin Sonata in C, K 281; Violin Sonatas in A, K 303, K 304)

10.45am *Mindless 10* with Mark Russell

11.30am *Composer of the Week*: Franz Schubert, *Scholarships* in Vienna Sonata Movement in B flat, D 28; Die Adalbert, Kyrie in D minor, D 49; Symphony No 1 in D (r)

12.30pm *10 Jazz Notes*, with Digby Fairweather

RADIO 4

6.00am *News Briefing* 6.10 *Farming Today* 6.25 *Prayer for the Day* 6.30 *Today* incl. 7.25, 8.25 *Sport* 7.45

Thought for the Day 8.40 *Topics from Women Gardeners* 8.58 *Woman's Hour*

9.00am *9.05 Start the Week*, Melvyn Bragg is joined by guests: Minette Marrin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Rosen

10.00am *New Big Band* (FM only), Jez Nelson listens to signals from outer space at the headquarters of the greatest search for extraterrestrial life

10.15am *This Sunday's Late* (LW only) 10.30 *Woman's Hour*

11.30am *Lots and the Englishmen*, a young Swedish writer comes to England to find her roots

12.00am *Never You and Yours*, with Chris Chal

12.25pm *Countdown*, with Ned Sherrin asks the questions of Kenneth McEvoy from London, Sue Brook from Oxford, and Richard Wildman from Bedford, in the general knowledge music quiz

1.00pm *Take One at a Time*, with Nick Clarke

1.40pm *The Archers* 1.55 *Shipping Forecast*

2.00pm *Thrushes*, by Owlyn Wyman and Brian Clegg. Jim Thresher is a reclusive landscape gardener and a first-class private detective. His dual life is revealed when a murderer takes place in a garden he has designed. With Michael Cochrane and John Moffatt (r)

11.00pm *The Late Late Seven*, a competition of Nicola and Gemma Montgomery, twin girls born with Down's Syndrome and serious heart defects (4/5) (r)

11.30pm *Uncle Dynamite* By P.G. Wodehouse, Stiggy and Richard Briers as Uncle Fred and narrated by Paul Edlington (3/6) (r) 12.00 News incl. 12.27am *Weather*

12.30am *Blue Peter* Bob and Linda reads Walter Moles' crime noir, abridged by Margaret Busby (6/10) 12.45 *Shipping Forecast* 1.00 *As World Service*

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.2, RADIO 3, FM 89.6-92.4, LW 198, MW 90.9, WORLD SERVICE, MW 646, LW 198, MW 1245-555am, CLASSIC FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 100-102, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television Smith and Susan Thomson

Can't pay? Then you will have to pay more

When I was young, going to work for a building society meant a dull future but a secure one — a few years behind a counter, a few in head office doing the accounts, a few more in head office doing precious little at all and a comfortable retirement.

Now the counter clerks and accountants are being sacked in their thousands. Meanwhile, Peter Robinson, who is no longer with the Woolwich, has switched aside the curtain and shown just what rewards might be available to those who claw their way to the top. Those counter clerks are being sacrificed because building societies have taken to cutting each other's throats and those of the banks, and vice versa. This is called the benefits of a competitive market.

So much for housing. Another basic necessity of life was threatened with the same benefits last week, the Government having decided to extend its enormously successful plans for gas and electricity, which threaten disaster for both, into water.

Various doubts immediately emerge. Yorkshire Water, for one, had better not be too zealous about going for new customers elsewhere, although I suppose its skills in shipping the stuff around in tankers might usefully be contracted out to other companies. The whole exercise was marketed by the political spin-doctors as a way of getting back at the "fat cats". This implies the naive belief that we will place our orders with the supplier that pays its

executives least, thereby entrusting our business to the management statistically pre-selected to be the industry's worst.

There is also consumer inertia. Knock on any door in the country and offer to cut the telephone bill by 10 or 15 per cent, and you will receive a dusty response. I know this because that is just what the cable phone companies have been doing, and little joy they have had of it. A former colleague of mine used to spend many a happy hour phoned into his home computer fiddling with his various savings and bank accounts on virtually a daily basis to maximise the interest. Doubtless he made a few pennies: most of us cannot be bothered, and the same goes for finding cheaper insurance — or cheaper water, cheaper gas or cheaper electricity, I suspect.

But when you look at the fun being had in bringing competition into the last two areas, you wonder if ministers are already in a hole and digging furiously — and in danger of fracturing water main. Last week we learnt that such is the disarray in the national pipeline system that British Gas and the

independent suppliers cannot agree

between them just how much is in the system. The pilot scheme to introduce 500,000 householders in the South West to a fully-competitive market this summer is three or four months behind schedule, and the week's news does not inspire confidence for this, or the coming of a countrywide competitive market over the next two years.

The 1993 deadline for full competition for electricity is in similar disarray. The industry has fallen out, not for the first time, but now over the systems being introduced to allow settlement of customers' bills. But assume that it all works, and that one day we each have a passel

of water, power and gas suppliers offering cheap deals. Prices will fall — but perhaps not for everyone.

There is a theory gaining ground called the social cost of distribution, which says that the rich will get the low bills and the poor the high ones. This is because there is nothing in the rules to stop the new entrants cherry-picking the better-off consumers and offering them the cheapest rates.

Any utility knows that 15 to 20 per cent of its customers struggle to pay their bills at some point. These are the Can't Pays, not the Won't Pays, who are very few, or the Forget to Pays, which includes nearly all of us at one time or another. These people are incredibly expensive to service. The practice of disconnection has largely died out. Can't Pays are now offered debt counselling — this is the 1990s, remember — pre-payment meters and other such help. The meters are expensive to install, the rest takes up administrative time. As a result, a poor household costs £50 per year more to supply with electricity than a well-off one — on an average annual bill of £300 or so.

Power companies already discriminate as far as they are allowed between them just how much is in the system. The pilot scheme to introduce 500,000 householders in the South West to a fully-competitive market this summer is three or four months behind schedule, and the week's news does not inspire confidence for this, or the coming of a countrywide competitive market over the next two years.

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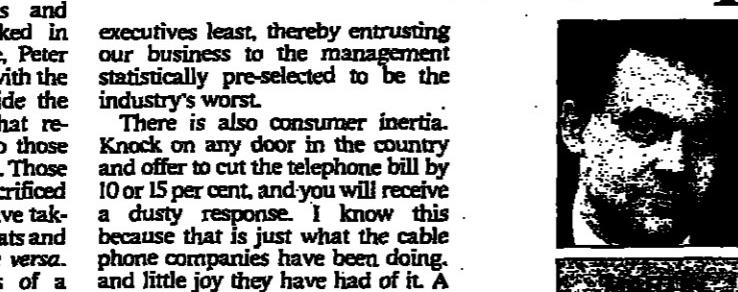
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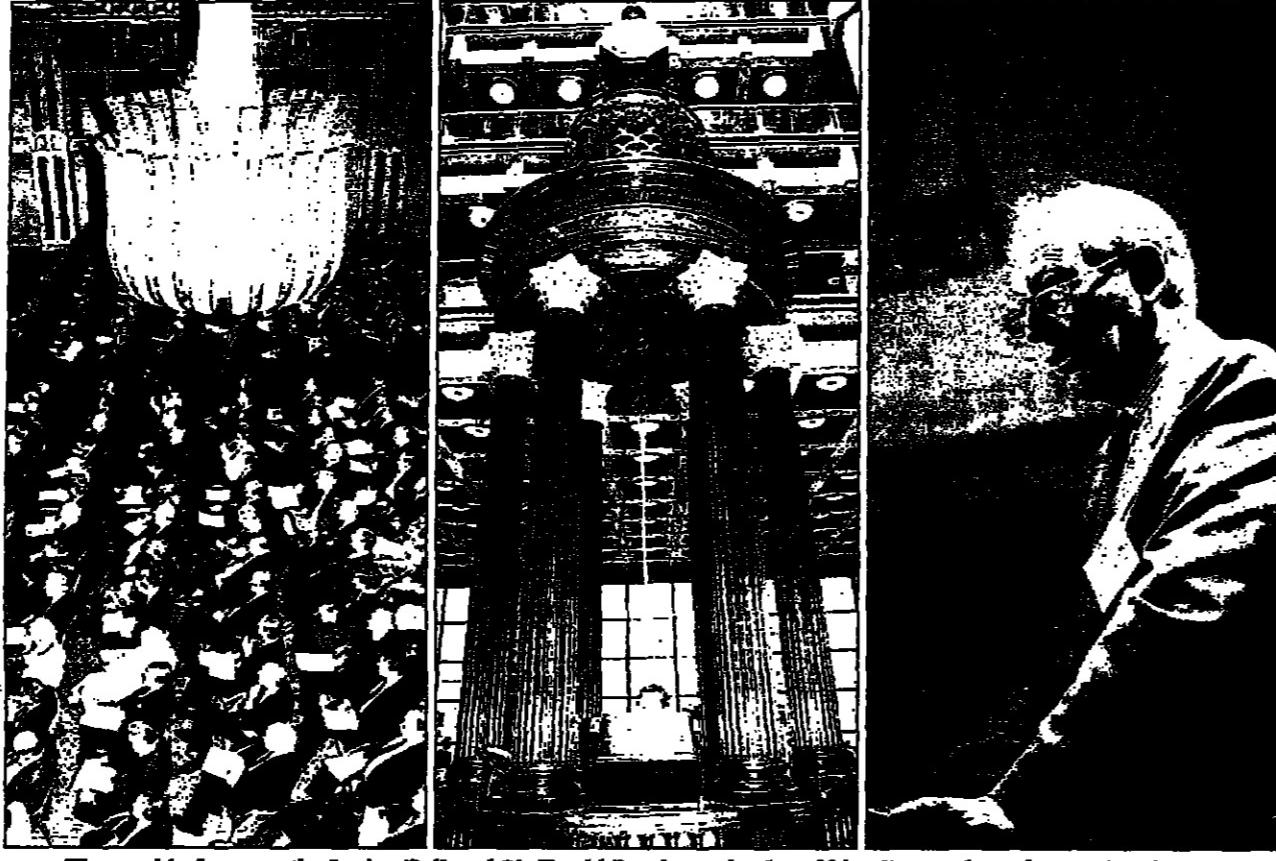
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Decision day looms for Lloyd's

As Lloyd's names assess a critique of its rescue plan, Sarah Bagnall considers the way ahead



The world of names, the Lutine Bell and Sir David Berriman, leader of Lloyd's members, face major changes

In July, more than 34,000 people may make the most important decision of their lives. Will they accept or reject Lloyd's of London's settlement offer, currently £2.8 billion? Whichever way names jump, the outcome will have severe ramifications not only for the financial predicament in which each now stands, but for countless others. The problem for many names is knowing what to do.

Lloyd's proposes that names pay a "reinsurance" premium to a specially formed reinsurance company to offload its liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993. Many of these debts relate to asbestos and pollution claims from the US and were underwritten as long ago as the 1960s.

To encourage names to agree to the plan, the insurance market has collected £2.8 billion, which is being distributed among names to try to cut the premiums for every name to affordable levels.

If names accept the offer, they will obtain a degree of "finality" and be able to resign from the market and walk away. Furthermore, the

estates of deceased names will be able to be closed and assets distributed. At present, a name cannot leave the market if in syndicates exposed to unquantifiable loss.

In return, names give up whether to accept the offer, and — as some see it — let Lloyd's off the hook, or whether to dismiss the offer and let the market cease to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

The report considers likely consequences if Lloyd's went into run-off — when the market ceases to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

Furthermore, the Lloyd's Central Fund would no longer be available to cover names' losses, because Lloyd's would have to retain its funds to meet its own debts, such as the burden of London, in which liabilities of the PCW syndicates were reinstated.

Many names are unsure whether to accept the offer, and — as some see it — let Lloyd's off the hook, or whether to dismiss the offer and let the market cease to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

The report considers likely consequences if Lloyd's went into run-off — when the market ceases to underwrite new business. There would be no

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

Why are the British always the bad guys?

Unfortunately, there's no special term for the Uncle Toms of British Equity who play Hollywood's villains, but unless somebody starts name-calling soon ("Sheriff of Nottingham! Sheriff of Nottingham!"), our national self-esteem will be permanently done for. I have never used the expression "married only by," but there's always a first time: last night's *Gulliver's Travels* (Channel 4) was brilliant, compelling and witty, married only (ouch) by its decision to cast the Lilliputians (absurd, tiny, warlike) as Brits, and the Brobdingnagians (awesomely peace-loving, soft-voiced) as Americans. When John Sullivan's *Over Here* actually joined in this Brit-bashing later in the evening (in a funny old sort of a way) coincidence compounded paranoia. Good grief, everybody is out to get us. Even we are out to get us.

In all other respects, however,

the Easter weekend of drama was

clearly the high point of the year. Anybody who thought they could concentrate on scratching lout out of their fingernails was, alas, in for a heavy time lolling in front of the telly wiping tears out of their eyes, and stuffing cheap milk chocolate down their necks. Most notably, Good Friday had *Eskimo Day* (BBC1), Jack Rosenthal's delicate comedy about parents escorting their teenagers to Cambridge interviews. It was holiday drama pure enjoyment (and I've never said that before either).

Eskimo Day sometimes looked in danger of running out of steam, but instead it achieved something really remarkable, with an emotional climax that seemed daringly Expressionistic. It all happened in a manipulative instant. As Maureen Lipman watched her son wave goodbye at the exact point when she knew she had lost him — director Piers Haggard pulled that corny old zoom-in-dolly-out effect

and broke your heart. (*Sighs*) Much imitated since *Jaws*, this technique vertiginously sucks the individual out of the landscape, and also sucks the viewer into the actor. (*Sighs*) Then, while the quartet of abandoned parents stood shivering in the quad, the camera roamed around them, circling them like something from a romance of youth. Well, All I can say is thanks. The acting was superb, especially from Lipman, who knows the value of emptying her face as well as filling it. David Ross as her confused husband ("I'm not with you, love") was wonderful.

Back with the plot against the limeys, *Gulliver's Travels* gave Channel 4 a rare drama coup. The channel has been so thoroughly colonised by Liverpudlians that any actor not equipped with lines such as "Go Ed Will Ya Soft Lad" is a definite plus. *Gulliver's Travels* needs no such

REVIEW



Lynne
Truss

negative distinction, however: it is surely destined to become a classic. Personally, I expected to be impressed by the special effects, (an inadequate term), but was not prepared for the brilliance of the story-telling. Years ago Channel 4 ran another Henson production — Jim Henson's *Greek Myths*, on Sundays — which similarly wove together narrator and event to breathtaking effect. It is the script

equivalent of zoom-in-dolly-out. The device here was simple: Gulliver (Ted Danson) returns from all his four voyages at once, having been absent nine years. He is considered mad, because he keeps insisting he's met little people and big people. As he tells his story, he zigzags between past and present with alarming ease. His confused mental worlds overlapping when (for instance) he pulls a cloth off a table (he's describing his heroic underwater capture of a tiny fleet); or when huge ears of wheat erupt through splintered floorboards between his legs, returning him forcibly to a Brobdingnagian cornfield. Each transition is astonishing, well-judged and beautifully prepared.

Ted Danson is a revelation — and to be serious for a minute, he looks very lovely with the long hair and the frock coat. Whether Jonathan Swift would recognise his hook is hard to say. His nose-

pinching disgust of humanity has been silently removed (his Gulliver does not scramble over the monstrous nipples of the Brobdingnagian women, noticing huge hairs dangling like ropes). Such niceness poses an interesting problem for tonight, obviously, if Gulliver is to encounter the Yahoos.

Where was it? Oh yes, "married only by," like *Gulliver*. John Sullivan's *Over Here* (BBC1) concludes tonight. Like *Gulliver*, it is expensive drama with special effects, this time involving dogfights and comically devastating enemy fire on East Anglian air bases during the war — which is funny or not, depending on whether it's serious.

Over Here was a bit slow to get going, and the American scenes were uniformly tiresome — especially the Yank idealist listening to radio reports of the war, and vowing to volunteer. Perhaps John

Sullivan (*Only Fools and Horses*) is just better at cynicism — which is where all the jokes came from. Meanwhile, Martin Clunes and Sam West were both excellent; and Clunes, with his "funny old sort of a way" speeches ("You see, in a funny old sort of a way, I lied") has clearly thrown down a challenge to Edward Fox. It's not every day you witness history like that.

Finally, *Band of Gold* (ITV) bowed out last night after a stunning second series — deeper and better even than the first, with quality acting right up to its bum. "Jesus I can't Andie any more!" said Geraldine James last night, but don't believe her, she's said that before. Reprieved Carol inherited the chicken factory; crazy, whey-faced Tracey committed suicide in Harragore; and brilliant Lena Headey (Celine) earned her place in the cast of the next series. Come say *tara* to Tracey, they said at the end. I wept. I did really.

7.00am News (Ceefax) and weather (4979205) 7.10 Blinky Bill (r) (6631205)

7.35 Postman Pat Special (r) (7773359)

8.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5363614)

8.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r) (s) (7024972) 8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (8724514)

9.00 News (Ceefax) (511224) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7074243) 9.25 POT (s) (5055601)

10.25 FILM: Blackbeard's Ghost (1968) — Comedy with Peter Ustinov. Directed by Robert Stevenson

12.10pm Pandas of the Sleeping Dragon. In the wild, in China (s) (1755866)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (49266750)

1.10 Regional News (7131392)

1.15 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (79312205)

1.40 Torvill and Dean: Face the Music. The farewell tour by the ice-dancers and company, including their best-known routines (Ceefax) (s) (6809175)

2.35 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964) starring Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke and David Tomlinson. Classic Disney musical about a magical nanny. Directed by Robert Stevenson (6003024)

4.50 Final Score (s) (9883330)

5.15 Beatrix Potter's Mr Tod (s) (1370663)

5.40 Neighbours (520935)

6.05 News (Ceefax) and weather (523663)

6.20 Regional News (151048)

6.25 Inside the Toybox — A Toy Story (Special) (Ceefax) (s) (767934)

7.00 That Showbusiness. Mike Smith is joined by Denise Black, Deepak Verma, Lily McMenamy and Phillip Jupitus (Ceefax) (s) (4595)

7.30 Watchdog. Alice Beer presents a special edition devoted entirely to shopping (Ceefax) (s) (663)

8.00 EastEnders. Kathy helps Pet to reach a decision; Cindy tries to find some enthusiasm for Ian's trip (Ceefax) (s) (3243)

8.30 FILM: The Vicar of Dibley (Ceefax) (s) (587935)

9.10 Over Here. The second and concluding part of a comedy-drama written by John Sullivan and set during the Second World War. With Samuel West, Martin Clunes, Sharon Gellar, Jay Goode, Todd Boyce and Geraldine James (36881801)

10.45 News (Ceefax) and weather (608934)

11.10 Match of the Day. Highlights from tonight's FA Carling Premiership clash between Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United (s) (763311)

12.00 FILM: Al Capone (1959, b/w) with Rod Steiger, Nehemiah Persoff, Joe de Santis, Fay Spain, and Martin Balsam. Authentic violent account of the rise and fall of the notorious gangster. Young Capone appears on the scene in 1919 and matures his way to the top. Success through the sale of bootleg liquor and the St Valentine's Day massacre are followed by his disintegration while incarcerated in Alcatraz. Directed by Richard Wilson (962625)

1.45am Weather (5621557)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder directly with VideoPlus+. "h" hardest. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (1), PlusCode (1) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: A Migrant's Heart (7805682) 6.25 Questions of National Identity (8599233)

7.15 Pages from Ceefax (1632601)

7.20 See Hear Breakfast News (6208866)

7.30 Songs of the Civil War (s) (82866)

8.30 Songs of Praise (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9421576)

9.05 FILM: A Canterbury Tale (1944, b/w) with Eric Portman and Sheila Sim. Offbeat drama set during the Second World War. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (1411246)

11.05 Argentine Grand Prix (r) (s) (3586683)

11.45 Ice Skating Gala (s) (945137)

12.35am The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide: On the Edge of the World (1/5) (r) (s) (8890585)

1.35 FILM: Household (1958). With Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. A woman takes a job as a governess for a widower's unruly brood. Directed by Melville Shavelson (Ceefax) (29842753)

2.30 FILM: Arabesque (1966) With Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren. An American agrees to decipher a hieroglyph in the interests of world peace. Directed by Stanley Donen (Ceefax) (31196137)

5.00 Ready, Steady, Cook(s) (5601) 5.30 Esther (s) (156)

CHOICE

Attenborough in Paradise BBC2, 6.00pm

You are a bird of paradise and for hundreds of years you have courted and mated in the forests of New Guinea and hardly a human being has set eyes upon you. Now comes Sir David Attenborough and a camera crew and your intimacies are recorded for all to see. But Sir David is such a nice chap and so enthusiastic that you would find it hard to begrudge him a childhood ambition. His passion for birds of paradise began when he was nine. He first tried to see them in 1957 but they played hard to get and in any case the technology was primitive. He has much better fortune this time. He and his team track down 11 species, none of which have never been filmed before. Footage of the bower birds, relatives of the birds of paradise, is no less spectacular. Even by the normal high standards of wildlife programmes, this one is a treat.

The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna (ITV, 3.00pm)

Ordinary people are hypnotised into doing silly but harmless things, such as taking part in a spoof of *Through the Keyhole* and watching their own house being refurbished or selling an unsaleable car to Gloria Huniford. Some of McKenna's stunts become a shade complicated for their own good. A couple who do not even know each other are persuaded they are on their honeymoon. Hardly have they got into the appropriate mood, than along comes a vamp from *EastEnders* to persuade the "husband" to be unfaithful. On a slightly more useful note, McKenna claims to be able to hypnotise people out of their phobias. It seems to work for Bobby Davro, who cannot stand spiders, while Paul Ross, who has a fear of heights, is inveigled into taking part in a high-wire act at the Blackpool circus.

Circles of Deceit: Kalon (ITV, 9.00pm)

Dennis Waterman's troubled undercover man returns for one of his occasional appearances in a thriller which offers understanding but for a Bank Holiday. This is a drama where plots and everything, and a complicated plot it is, but hold on to the words "drugs" and "money laundering" and you will soon get the drift. Waterman is called in by his icy woman controller (Susan Jamieson), who is apparently murdered, and, although this seems improbable, he becomes a messenger with a merchant bank. There is also the chance for a quasi-romantic encounter with the dead man's girlfriend (Saskia Wickham), in his final television role. It is not one of his more testing, but he makes a smooth villain.

The Year of Dibley

BBC1, 8.30pm

Dawn French returns for an Easter one-off as the Village Vicar in a serial conflict with her faithful parishioners. The name of Richard (Blackadder) Curtis' scriptwriter is not mentioned, nor for something more surprising than this amiable new view of English village life but it is a likable show which deserves further exposure. The juxtaposition of French, once a leader of alternative comedy, and such stalwarts of a more conventional tradition as Gary Waldhorn, John Bluthal, Trevor Peacock and the incomparable Liz Smith, has proved especially fruitful. The bonus is Emma Chambers' guileless Alice, forever baffled by the vicar's dubious jokes after the final credits. The fun tonight centres on the villagers' sacrifice for Lent and something called the Dibley bunny. Peter Waymark

6.00am Attenborough in Paradise (Ceefax) (s) (29446)

7.00 Anne Frank Remembered. Jon Blair's Oscar-winning documentary about the life and legacy of the teenager whose diary records two years in hiding in an Amsterdam office building during the Second World War. In a combination of archive film with contemporary footage, it tells the story of Anne's life from childhood in Frankfurt and Amsterdam to discovery and death in Bergen-Belsen in 1945 (r) (3559069)

8.55 Close Up Double Bill: Richard Fleischer and Nick Park select scenes from their favourite films (Ceefax) (s) (45750)

9.10 The X Files. Mulder becomes obsessed with investigating a case that closely parallels an encounter he experienced as a child (r) (Ceefax) (s) (310137)

9.55 This Life. Anna reacts to devous means to get her own way and Warren loses his temper over a mouldy yoghurt (Ceefax) (s) (824576)

10.35 FILM: Husband and Wife (1992) with Woody Allen, Blythe Danner, Judy Davis, Julie Lewis, Liam Neeson and Mia Farrow. A happily married couple begin to re-evaluate their marriage when their best friends announce that they are splitting up. Directed by Woody Allen (Ceefax) (6803392). Followed by Weather

12.30am-6.00am The Learning Zone

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7.0

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

LLOYD'S D-DAY 34NAMES MUST DECIDE
SOON ON THE
SETTLEMENT OFFER

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Post Office targets the travel trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches across the UK.

The service is now available at the Trafalgar Square office in London, where a six-month trial is being carried out. If successful, it will be rolled out nationally in up to 600 of the largest high street branches.

Within a year, thousands more branches could have computer systems in place to enable customers to fix up their travel documents alongside buying stamps and postal orders.

The move will increase the price war between Britain's 7,000 travel shops and high street agencies, which have been suffering this year from lack of customer demand for holidays, and fierce price competition.

The Association of British Travel Agents has not been consulted over the plans. It

said it was unaware that the service had begun.

The Post Office has made no secret of its ambitions to become a one-stop holiday shop. It believes that the service, which involves the sale of flights only, and not holiday packages, will complement its existing foreign exchange and travel insurance sales through its 20,000 counters. A spokesman said:

"We are visited by 25 million people every week, so the opportunities are enormous."

The Post Office is not alone in recognising the money-making potential of the travel business, estimated to be worth about £7 billion this year. Banks, clothing chains, including River Island, the fashion store, and supermarkets are all keen to secure a slice of the profit.

Both travel insurance and foreign exchange have proved popular with customers and may encourage the Post Office to expand further into person-

al financial services by the end of the decade. At present, customers are able to buy foreign currency and traveler's cheques on demand at 600 larger outlets, but those using 19,000 smaller offices need to order their currency and cheques in advance.

A Post Office spokesman said at the Trafalgar Square trial that it was too early to say whether the customers had been buying tickets for Easter travel or for later in the year.

The Post Office is offering seats unsold by scheduled airlines. It said that it had no plans at present to sell surplus charter airline tickets, although the possibility of introducing such a service at a later date has not been ruled out.

The spokesman added that Post Office branches might also consider selling theatre tickets in the future, although such a move was not an option at present. He added: "We do not believe air tickets will be sold in some of the more rural areas, but we do feel there is a market for them in larger towns and cities."

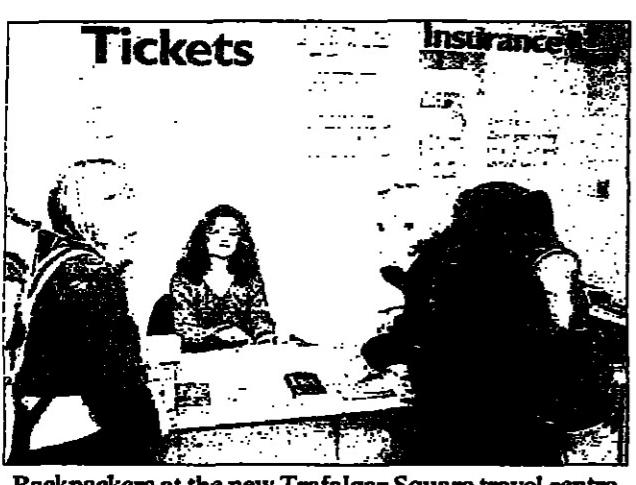
Richard Dykes, head of Post Office Counters, has been working with Commodore, the computerised booking agency, to set up the Trafalgar Square trial. In time, branches may end up offering a full holiday advice service.

The spokesman said: "We will be selling tickets for all the major airlines who have spare seats on their aircraft."

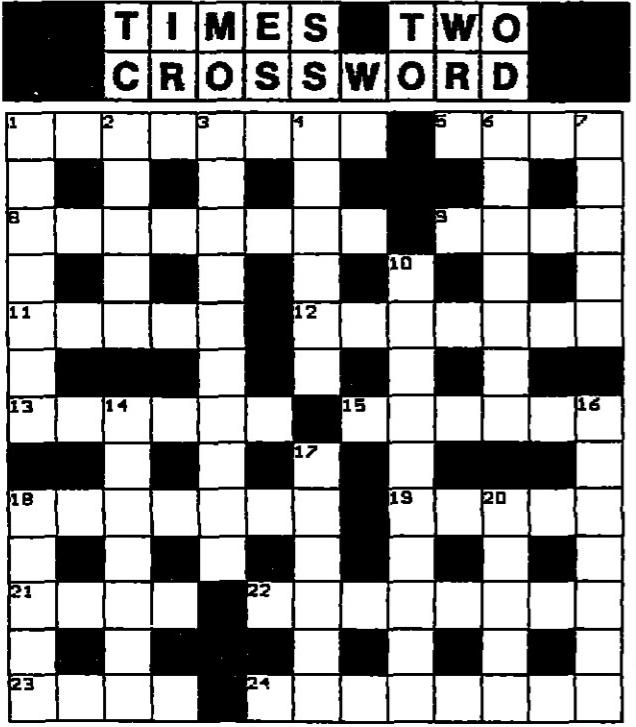
He added: "In common with other similar services, we cannot guarantee that customers will be able to get the exact flight they request, but we will try to obtain the closest possible alternative. It is too early to say how many more branches will be offering this service after the six-month trial but we are confident that it will prove popular."

The Post Office's plans are part of a deal to allow a wider range of services after the Government decided to abandon the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Leading article, page 15



Backpackers at the new Trafalgar Square travel centre



ACROSS
1 Wicked act of violence (8)
5 Metrical units; imperial units (4)
8 Be successful (2,6)
9 Strain to look; equal (4)
11 Stay in bed longer (3,2)
12 Speak badly of (7)
13 A particular government (6)
13 Stand-in monarch (6)
18 Thrower (7)
19 Of the eye (5)
21 Gem; Jack —, killed Lee H Oswald (4)
22 Stone-throwing device (8)
23 Appearance, manner (4)
24 Improvident (8)

DOWN
1 General 2 Below par 3 Spring 4 Input 5 Giraffe 6 Develop 8 Draper 9 Develop 10 Natal 12 Sarcophagi 16 Murphy's Law 18 Haven 20 Pro rata 21 Tongan 22 Supine 23 Pump Room

SOLUTION TO NO 749
ACROSS: 2 Blessing 6 Become 8 Draper 9 Develop 10 Natal 12 Sarcophagi 16 Murphy's Law 18 Haven 20 Pro rata 21 Tongan 22 Supine 23 Pump Room

DOWN: 1 General 2 Below par 3 Spring 4 Input 5 Giraffe 6 Develop 7 Overcome 8 Airstrip 11 Aphorism 14 Halting 15 Shut up 17 Unfair 19 Venom

SOLUTION TO EASTER HOLIDAY JUMBO CONCISE
ACROSS: 1 Went like a lamb to the slaughter 15 Out of pocket 16 Notedly 17 Posting 18 Panel game 19 Amphetamine 20 Argus 21 Croesus 23 Externally 24 Dinosaur 27 Euro 28 Compassing 30 Connoisseur 33 Mistakable 35 Terrace 36 Deprise 38 Opera 39 Laryngitis 41 Pre-release 43 Tridentine 46 Upstanding 48 Cobra 51 Baptism 52 Tea leaf 54 Regulatory 56 Short weight 57 Street door 59 Peso 61 Exemplar 63 Monotonous 65 Shorten 67 Zebra 69 Educational 70 Ephemeris 72 Dormant 73 Brittle 74 Quadruped 75 Three blind mice; see how they run

DOWN: 1 Woodpecker 2 Not on your life 3 Lifeless 4 Kroma 5 Ankle-deep 6 Attract 7 Bonapartist 8 On the danger list 9 Hydraulic ram 10 Styne 11 Apple-pie order 12 Gestapo 13 Thing 14 Registrar General 22 Snorkel 25 America 26 Unwearing 29 Sterne 31 Supplicate 32 Strategist 34 Baronetage 37 Not to be sneezed at 40 Impressionistic 42 Untrue 44 Improve 45 Temperamental 47 Gallows 49 Border terrier 50 Fascialion 53 Fortlness 55 Cornishman 58 Desperado 60 Commerce 62 Placate 64 Oblique 66 Durban 68 Barer 71 Herat

Head of Cookson gets £1.7m pay package

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHARD OSTER, head of Cookson, the electronic materials and ceramics group, became one of the UK's best-paid chief executives last year when he earned a total of £1.73 million. Total remuneration, which compared with earnings of £1.35 million in the previous 12 months, included a basic salary of £581,032 and bonuses of £929,221.

The annual report also shows another two directors received substantial pay increases. Donald Caceri and Stephen Howard, who act as joint group managing directors, were paid £934,628 and £898,597 respectively, compared with £674,860 and £662,714 in the previous 12 months.

During the year when the company achieved a 50 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £181.5 million, the company paid a

total of £4.93 million to its directors, a sharp increase from £3.5 million in the previous year. In addition, Cookson contributed £981,260 to their pensions. Mr Oster also received 416,468 share options during the year, with a market

value of £104,000. The average exercise price is 281p, compared with a current price of 310p. At the year-end Mr Oster held options on shares with a total market value of £3.3 million.

Mr Oster and the joint managing directors, who are all US citizens, are on three-year rolling contracts, an arrangement that has attracted criticism during the current debate on corporate governance. However, the company says it is "not in the best interests of shareholders" to seek to renegotiate the notice periods.

Last year Ray Sharpe, vice-president of Cookson America, received \$479,520 in compensation for the cancellation of a third year of notice which was provided in his contract before he became a director.



Oster: share options

Wall Street braced for delayed shock

US job figures to hit shares

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET is today braced for significant initial losses as the American stock market has its first chance to react to Friday's stronger than expected employment figures for March.

The figures, which showed that 140,000 jobs had been created outside the farm sector last month, appeared to confirm that the American economic recovery is alive and well and that there is no need for further interest rate cuts. Although continuing health

in economic growth should be positive for corporate profits and the stock market, Wall Street is still likely to react to the fallout in the US Treasury bond market on Friday, when the benchmark long bond fell by nearly two percentage points, taking its yield to 6.66 per cent from 6.66 per cent at Thursday's close.

The New York Stock Exchange, which was closed on Friday, reopens today, but British markets will not be able to react to developments in the US until traders return to work tomorrow. The 140,000 gain in non-

farm payrolls added to a revised increase of 624,000 in February. The February figure was revised down from the 705,000 rise originally reported, which sent American stocks and bonds into a tailspin.

□ The latest Merrill Lynch

Gallup survey of British fund managers showed that 85 per cent of those surveyed expect an improvement in Britain's general economic situation over the coming year. Some 61 per cent expect inflation to be higher in a year's time, with 39 per cent expecting base rates to be rising in a year.

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We have organised deals worth an aggregate value of almost \$3 billion, many of which have gone on to be successful listed companies including Hays plc, Caradon plc, Kenwood Appliances plc, Vero Group PLC and Stoves plc.

If you would like to learn more about Candover, contact either Stephen Curran or Doug Fairhurst on 0171 489 9848.

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Peter Robinson, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich, yesterday after returning to his Kent home

Ousted society chief back home

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER ROBINSON, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has come out of hiding and returned to his home in Brasted, Kent.

He continues to deny allegations of abuse of company facilities but is unlikely to make a more detailed defence until he has studied an external report into the allegations ordered by the Woolwich board. KPMG, the accountancy firm, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, are expected to deliver their confidential report in two weeks.

The allegations have included the use of building society gardeners, electricians and decorators for work at his luxury home. The Woolwich board said there had been a complete breakdown of confidence in Mr Robinson.

Yesterday the Woolwich sought to quash speculation that it is in merger talks aimed at strengthening its position after Mr Robinson's dismissal.

The society denied a report that it was about to enter into negotiations with Birmingham.

ham Midshires and dismissed rumours that it was attempting to hire Mike Jackson, the widely respected chief executive of Midshires, to take Mr Robinson's job.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "I have not had any talks with the Woolwich about mergers or the chief executive vacancy."

The leading internal candidate is John Stewart, opera-

tions director, who has led the society's business diversification, including setting up its telephone banking arm.

The Woolwich said it intended to proceed with its conversion plans and indicated that any merger or acquisition activity would follow the flotation, scheduled for next summer.

Speaking from his £450,000 home yesterday, Mr Robinson said: "I have spent the last

couple of days staying with friends in the area on the advice of my solicitor.

"I'm not really able to comment on any allegations made against me because I have not seen anything in writing and it is only then that I will consider any response. But, meanwhile, I would like to say I deplore this smear campaign which is going on against me."

Rentokil set to raise BET bid

BY CARL MORTISHED

RENTOKIL is expected to top up its bid for BET this week with a £10m sweetener aimed at swaying loyal shareholders away from the services group headed by John Clark. Rentokil has until Friday to raise its offer but the market is expecting only a small increase from the pest control and security services group headed by Clive Thompson.

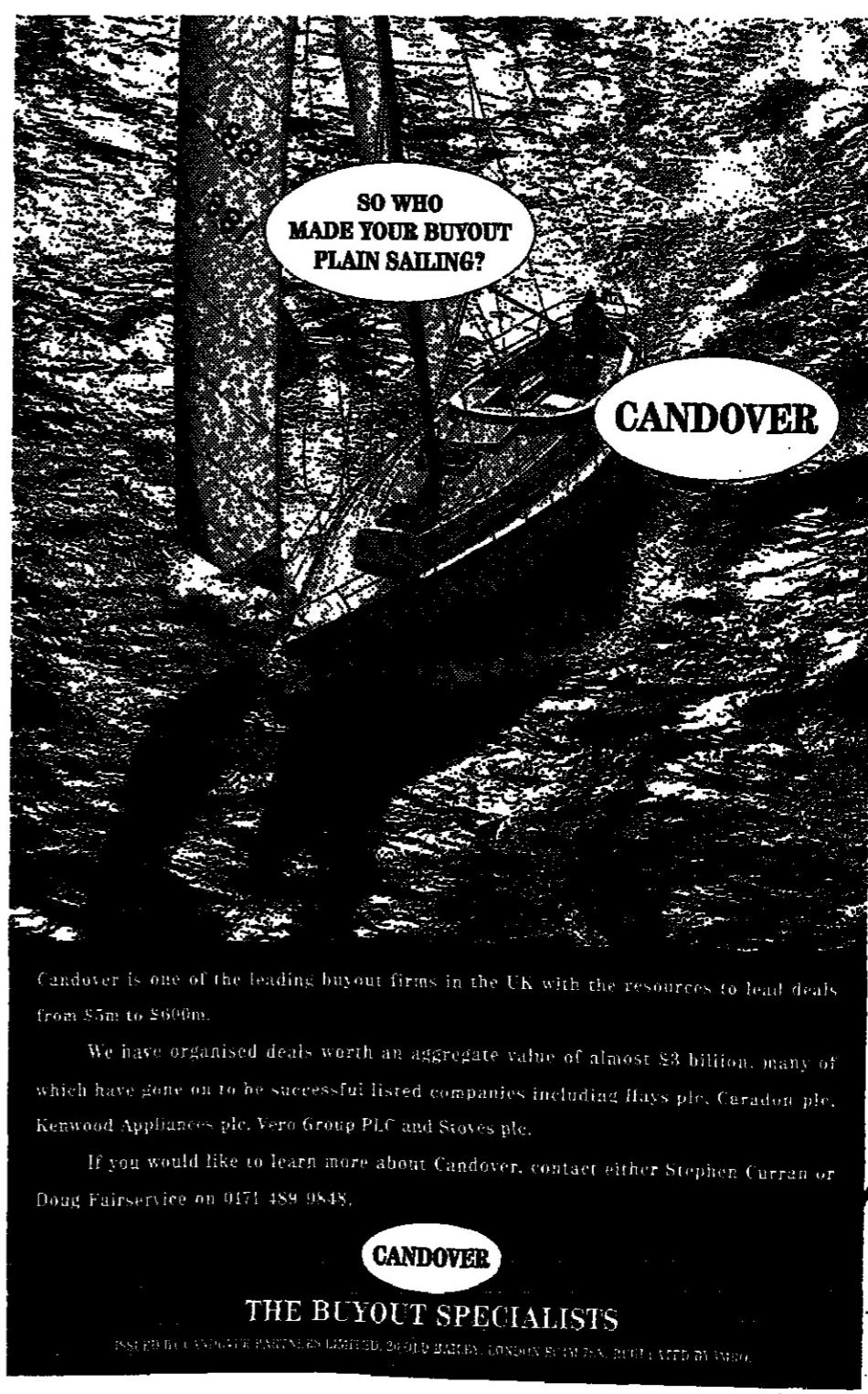
Rentokil's mixed share and cash offer values a BET share at 206p, a penny less than the

closing price last Thursday. BET has mounted a robust defence but its efforts have failed to capture the imagination of investors.

However, last week the bid battle came alive with a complaint to the Takeover Panel by BET, who alleged that market rumours that BET was under pressure from its major shareholders to enter into merger talks had been instigated by the Rentokil camp. Rentokil denies it is the source

N&P vote

The future of the National & Provincial Building Society will be sealed on Thursday when its members meet at the Nynex arena, Manchester, to vote on the £1.35 billion takeover bid by Abbey National. Of the 1.4 million savers and borrowers entitled to vote, most have already done so by post.



Jay Wilson

IS MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

■ MUSICALS

Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, Saturday.

CABARET

Mulling it over

Denny Laing
Café Royal

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



■ BOOKS

John Betjeman's writings on the Church are published in a new edition illustrated by Paul Hogarth. IN THE SHOPS: Now REVIEW: Thursday



■ FILM

More wit and wisdom as life meets art in Woody Allen's latest snappy comedy, *Mighty Aphrodite*. OPENS: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

The South Bank begins a massive month-long celebration of a giant of avant-gardism, Harrison Birtwistle. OPENS: Friday REVIEW: Monday



■ POP

From 10,000 Maniacs to solo stardom: Natalie Merchant brings her alternative rock to Shepherds Bush. GIG: Saturday REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE

From bad to worse

PROBABLY the worst movie director known to man, Ed Wood has posthumously become a star. Hollywood even made the poor guy's life into a film last year. Now, on tour around the country is a spoof stage musical of his most prized flop. In case you have forgotten, *Plan 9 From Outer Space* is the risible horror movie, cobbled together in 1959, in which grave-robbing aliens buzz Earth in what look suspiciously like flying hubcaps and the zombified dead rise from, surely, a garden shed.

This musical, by David G. Smith (plus some tinkering from the British production team), is pre-

Plan 9 From Outer Space
Queen's, Hornchurch

sumably hoping to land in the West End eventually. The cast includes Peter Straker as the commander of the invaders, here a glittering transvestite, with a glance at Wood's own wardrobe. Straker certainly shines in his sequins and stilettos. Adele Anderson, of Fascinating Aida, is in fine voice as Vampira, hitting alarmingly deep notes then rocketing to high walls. She looks fittingly wicked in her plunging black dress but does not seem relaxed in the role. This may be because co-directors Marina Caldarone and Richard Hansom often seem almost as clueless about their art as dear old Wood.

The opening format suggests a cloning of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Criswell, our mock-spooky narrator, intones (not very worthily) in black tie. Cue, the squeaky-clean 1950s couple, Paula and Jeff, caught up in a lightning storm with dracs and cross-dressers round the corner. Meanwhile, the songs often merely plunder other people's tunes in the name of pastiche. There is welcome variety — Berlin cabaret, country and western, whatever — but the lyrics are cheap. The catchiest numbers are naturally irrelevant.

There are certainly amusing moments when the show is knowingly clumsy. Criswell's revolving booth subjects him to unwanted jerks. A mention of aliens from "up there" is punctuated by everyone suddenly gawking at the ceiling. Frequently though, this live show is just uncomfortably technically iffy in its own right. Cast as our trusty Jeff, Luke Goss (formerly of Bros) just stands around with his legs apart looking stiffly self-conscious when he is meant to be sending up the original something rotten.

KATE BASSETT



Posthumous Potter with a sci-fi touch: Carmen Ejogo, Ganiat Kasumu, Ciaran Hinds and Frances de la Tour in a scene from *Cold Lazarus*, which begins in May

finishing touches to *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*.

Karaoke is set in 1994, the year of Potter's death. Its central character is a writer who is at the post-production stage with a film he has scripted. The resonances are layer upon layer — Daniel Field has been told that he has terminal cancer, his film is about a writer.

Cold Lazarus is set 374 years later. Field's head has been frozen and a group of scientists succeeds in thawing out his memories. The two dramas form a devilishly quick-witted double about creativity, memory and the exploitation of people's ideas.

Editors are the secret conductors of a drama. They shape its movements and its flow. Our responses are guided, too, by the editing: by the sheer adrenalin of fast-cutting from one shot to another, or by the soothing lull of a cross-fade between two images.

"I went to the cinema once with some friends, who came out feeling uncomfortable with the film without knowing why," says Douglas. "I could see that it was because it had been badly edited."

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Potter's final works, written through pain and against the clock, may prove to be his most impressive. The director, Renny Rye, will come in for his share of praise or condemnation — not least because Potter stipulated that he should be given the job after directing the writer's *Lipstick on Your Collar* and *Midnight Movie*. So will Albert Finney, who plays the central character, Daniel Field, in both serials. But let us turn to the other, hidden hands currently shaping the destiny of both dramas.

And the flutter of commentary, nobody will mention Clare Douglas. This will not be unusual — after all, how many film editors' names can you drop? Nonetheless, it will be an oversight of some proportion.

Even a dramatist as good as Dennis Potter needs someone to join all the bits together. Film editors are like the girders in a building: invisible but indispensable. Without girders, you have a mass of bricks and timber. Without editors, you just have reels of film. Every drama that you watch, whether on television or in the cinema, has been comprehensively edited. Every time there is a cut from one shot to another, an editor's hand has made the incision.

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The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, says Marcus du Sautoy

Is this solution the end of maths?

My lady, take Fermat into the music room. There will be an extra spoonful of jam if you find his proof." Tom Stoppard in his play *Arcadia* is just one of many who have helped to immortalise Fermat's Last Theorem as the Greatest Unsolved Problem of Mathematics.

But last month in Jerusalem, it was Andrew Wiles, and not *Arcadia's* Thomasina, who was claiming that spoonful of jam. His solution of Fermat's Last Theorem was rewarded in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) with one of mathematics' highest accolades, the Wolf prize worth £60,000, which he shares with his colleague at Princeton, Robert Langlands.

Fermat conjectured that if n is a number bigger than 2, you will never be able to find three whole numbers such that the n th power of the first is the sum of the n th powers of the other two. Or, for those with a head for equations, that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solution where x, y and z are whole numbers. Wiles explains the appeal of Fermat's problem: "Here was a problem that I, a ten-year-old, could understand, but none of the great mathematicians had been able to resolve. From that moment I tried to solve it myself."

The legendary status of the problem comes, though, from Fermat's tantalising marginal note, probably the biggest provocation in the history of mathematics. "I have a wonderful proof of this fact which the margin is too small to contain."

Centuries of searching for Fermat's proof unearthed quantities of mathematical treasures but Fermat's gem remained hidden. Perhaps *Arcadia's* Thomasina was right: "The note in the margin is a joke to make you all mad." With time it became something of a sideline. That is until the mid-Eighties when it became inextricably linked with a much more modest part of mathematics — elliptic curves.



Emma Fielding as Tom Stoppard's Thomasina

Ken Ribet, of the University of Berkeley, showed that Fermat would follow from a conjecture about elliptic curves named after two Japanese mathematicians, Taniyama and Shimura. It was armed with this information that Wiles dedicated seven years to settling enough of Taniyama-Shimura to yield

'No other problem will ever be the same to me'

his childhood dream of proving Fermat. But with its solution, have we lost the magic that this puzzle has generated over the centuries? Could anything possibly replace Fermat's Last Theorem as mathematics' holy grail? Most people believe that mathematical research is long division, to a lot of decimal places. With the advent of the

computer, surely mathematics must have all been worked out by now. So is that the end of mathematics?

This perception of mathematics could not be further from the truth. The subject is full of open problems, some of which are much older than Fermat, others which are very new. While Wiles is being honoured for the end of a story, his fellow prizewinner, Robert Langlands, is being rewarded for an inspired new problem. In mathematics, this sort of vision is often more important than proof.

The Langlands Programme, as his vision is called, proposes to unify two seemingly different areas of mathematics — arithmetic and symmetry. It provides some sort of dictionary, translating one into another.

The Taniyama-Shimura conjecture, which Wiles partially proved, is itself just a small part of this programme. His vision is so deep that a proof will probably not be seen in our lifetime and will certainly be a worthy successor to Fermat for stimulating new ideas and research.

But the problem most mathematicians would trade their soul with Mephistopheles for

a proof has to be the Riemann Hypothesis. It is a far greater goal for mathematics than Fermat. Even if Mephistopheles was to provide an uninspiring proof, the understanding that Riemann's conjecture would give us about prime numbers is immense.

The famous Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy almost provided the Riemann Hypothesis with a story to equal Fermat's cryptic note in the margin. On a rough sea crossing, fearing for his life, he sent a joke telegram saying he had found a wonderful proof.

The ship, however, did not sink. Although mathematicians are quite happy to explain Fermat at a dinner party, the Riemann hypothesis is a little

bit more indigestible. Here, though, for those with a strong stomach, is a flavour of what it says. The prime numbers are the indivisible building blocks of all numbers, yet their properties remain deeply mysterious. Two thousand years ago Euclid showed there were infinitely many primes.

Today we celebrate a hundred years of knowing what proportion of all numbers are prime numbers. But if you look at a list of primes there really seems to be no nice pattern. If all looks like random noise.

Around 1740, Euler identified a function (now called the Riemann zeta function) which allowed you to understand all

prime numbers in one go. A function is like a computer — you feed a number in, it calculates away and gives you a number out.

Those numbers which output zero are in some sense the harmonics of this function. It is these harmonics which tell us all about prime numbers. Riemann conjectured what these harmonics look like. If true, it could imply that the music of the primes is far from being just noise.

But both Langlands Programme and the Riemann Hypothesis are far too complicated ever to capture the public imagination as mathematics' new Great Unsolved Problem. Perhaps as the solver of Fermat it is up to Andrew Wiles to throw down the gauntlet for the next generation.

"There's no other problem that will mean the same to me," he says. But Wiles does suggest as a candidate perhaps the oldest unsolved problem in mathematics, the so-called Problem of Congruent Numbers. It is simple to state and a child can start playing round with ideas. Yet it relates to deep questions of arithmetic and has resisted centuries of attack.

Perhaps a snappier name and some cryptic marginal notes by the likes of Andrew Wiles and it could find its way into the public imagination.

• Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge.

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Why Britain is losing the great gene race

this information than British or European ones.

Of the 1,175 patents so far granted for human DNA sequences, most are owned by Japanese or American companies, report Dr Sandy Thomas and colleagues. More than 70 per cent of the human gene patents issued by the European Patent Office are in Japanese or American hands.

Dr Thomas says that Britain's policy of open access means that the country could lose out, as it has in the past. She cites the case of the breast cancer gene BRCA2, now the subject of a patent battle between the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, and the American company Myriad Genetics, of Salt Lake City.

Both are claiming to have

been first to identify a use for the gene, which gives women who carry it a far greater risk of getting breast cancer. Myriad Genetics filed its patent for the gene after the DNA sequence was put on the Internet by the Sanger Centre.

Though Myriad has denied that it was this data which put it on the net, it could certainly have been helpful. The irony is that the DNA came originally from the Institute of Cancer Research. This means that material from one British laboratory,

sequenced at another, could have provided a distant company with a valuable patent.

"It raises interesting questions," says Dr Thomas. She says the Government's policy of wealth creation through basic science "sits uncomfortably" with the fact that an American company is able to file for a patent through publicly funded research in Britain.

Dr Richard Wooster, of the Sutton team, believes that the Sanger data was helpful to everybody. "Myriad got an

advantage, but so did we," he says.

The Sutton team identified a length of DNA containing about a million "bases" within which the BRCA2 gene lay. But to get any closer they needed the full sequence of the bases, which the Sanger Centre was better equipped to obtain. "It would take them a couple of months, while it might have taken us a year," says Dr Wooster.

Once the complete sequence was available on the Internet, it was easier for both the Sutton and the Myriad groups to identify the 10,000 or so bases that make up the gene, and to devise a use for it to make it patentable.

Possible uses include a screening test for women who carry the gene, and long-term therapeutic possibilities, both of which

are covered in the Myriad claim.

The open access policy is defended by Dr David Owen, of the Medical Research Council, which supports the Sanger Centre jointly with the Wellcome Trust.

"When it is just a gene sequence, the best place for it is in the public domain," he says. "The more people who know about it, the more likely it will be put to good use."

The Wellcome Trust recently organised a meeting in Bermuda to thrash out the issue. Participants agreed that fast data release is desirable, but not everybody believes that it is possible. Many expect that the Belgian approach will be followed by others, particularly in Germany. Japan is already very cagey with its data, Dr Thomas says.

The problem is, she says, that America has many more companies alert to the commercial opportunities of gene sequences. "Given that Britain and Europe have a weak position, it is vital that we develop better mechanisms to protect our interests."

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Artists from the depths

Anjana Ahuja
on early man's sunken studio

THE Cosquer cave was discovered by Henri Cosquer, a deep-sea diver, in 1985 at the foot of a cliff at Cape Morgiou, near Marseille. News of the magnificent collection of prehistoric art it contained spread quickly, drawing widespread media attention around the world.

Jean Clottes and Jean Courtois, two archaeologists who studied the cave in subsequent diving missions, have just published a complete record of what they found (*The Cave Beneath the Sea*, Abrams, £45). Looking beyond the beautiful pictures, the book is a tale of exploitation, mistrust and controversy. Several experts claimed the cave was a fake, angering the elite assembled to investigate it. The dangers of exploring underwater caves provided an added, grim allure — three divers died trying to find it.

THE engravings and paintings inside it include eerie images of stencilled human hands. Animals also feature heavily, including horses, ibex (wild goat) and chamois (goat antelopes), and there are unusual depictions of sea creatures such as seal, fish and jellyfish. The animals are patterned with rectangles, zigzags and spears.

The artists executed their handiwork in two distinct eras, 27,000 years ago and 18,000 years ago, according to dating carried out using charcoal found lying on the cave floor.

The 490-ft entrance to the palaeolithic (early Stone Age) cave became submerged at the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, preserving what seems to have been a primitive studio and ceremonial site rather than a place to live.

Divers also found the remains of burnt logs, which were probably used to illuminate the cave while the prehistoric artists worked.

Current

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Radon belt discovered

A STUDY by the British Geological Survey has shown that houses far from the granite regions of the South West may suffer from high levels of radon, the radioactive gas that seeps up from the ground.

Measurements made by the National Radiological Protection Board have enabled the BGS team to identify another belt, running roughly from Lyme Bay to Hull, where

radon levels are high. The culprit is not granite, but carboniferous limestone, which is also found in Bristol and parts of Wales.

The limestone does not contain as much uranium — which decays to produce radon — as does granite, but it is more dispersed, so more radon reaches the atmosphere. Drawn up through the foundations of houses, it can reach levels that the NRPB believes increase the risks of cancer.

Dr Donald Appleton, of the BGS, says that the risk from limestone declines towards the North, as the amounts of shale increase. The risk also depends on what is deposited on top of the limestone.

Both are claiming to have been shown to the female one at a time by moving baffles. Transparent filters controlled the wavelength of the light seen by the female, whose reaction was measured by how vigorously she hopped about when face to face with each of the males.

The result, reported in *Nature*, is that the ultraviolet light at wavelengths between 300 and 400 nanometres was indeed important, and probably contributed to the female's colour perception. Birds evidently do not see each other quite as we see them; maybe, suggest Dr Andrew Bennett and colleagues, ultraviolet is used in avian signalling.

They put a female in a square cage, surrounded on all four sides by cages containing males, each of which could

Through a bird's eye



BIRDS are often wonderfully coloured, but to each other they may be more vivid still. In an ingenious series of experiments, a team from Bristol and Regensburg universities has shown that zebra finches use the ability to see in the ultraviolet when they are choosing mates.

They put a female in a square cage, surrounded on all four sides by cages containing males, each of which could

Artists from the depths
Anjana Ahuja

Grand maternal instincts

As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of the extended family

MY FUTURE husband, then aged six, was present at a garden party given by his grandmother Lady Jersey in honour of Lord Kitchener. "And who are you, my little man?" asked the hero. Frank replied solemnly: "I am the grandson of Grandmama."

I have a feeling that grandparents are moving once more into the ascendancy. This may be sheer conceit of course. But one is apt to feel on the map when one is grandfather to 12 granddaughters, 14 grandsons (excluding two step-granddaughters and one step-grandson — excluded from the fold relationship but by no means from the affections), five great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

This roll call would have been nothing special in the Victorian age when grandmothers were the prop of countless households, both poor and rich. To the poor they were unpaid nannies and to the rich they became voluntary psychiatric consultants. Queen Victoria quarrelled furiously with her own mother, but when she died, Victoria felt that she was irreplaceable in her role of grandmother to the royal children: no one else could be relied on to show the same interest in every one of them. Victoria herself was widely admired as "Grandmother of Europe".

Immediately after the Second World War, I wondered what future remained for the larger family with its outliers — aunts, uncles, grandparents and great-grandparents. When our eighth child was born a letter arrived saying I was breeding like a rabbit and ought to know better. Mr Nasty raged about having to contribute as a bachelor tax-payer to my Family Allowance. Nor had my mother-in-law yet arrived to cheer him up.

Half a century later a volume arrives in our bookshops which will put Mr Nasty in his place, and the family in its place, along with those guardians of health and home, the grandparents.

Dr Joan Gomez's *You and Your Grandchild* (Bloomsbury) is a miracle of comprehensiveness, compression and wisdom, illustrated by plenty

ful anecdotes. I thoroughly enjoyed this grandmotherly saga, even though it outstripped my experiences and in other ways has been outdistanced by them. To start with, Dr Gomez's typical grandmother is round about 50 and seems to have only one or two grandchildren.

To me, being a great-

grandmother means

something less cosy

and rather more di-

nosaurian than Dr Gomez's portrait. I am about to be 90, my eldest grandchild being 30 and eldest great-grandchild, Stella, eight. That means they have a real acquaintance with extreme old age. I remember one of the three-year-old grandchildren asking: "Granny, why is your hand cracked?" If she had asked why my brain was cracked I would have understood. But hand? Then I realised that she had been examining my intricate web of wrinkles. So a lecture followed on why Mummy's hand is smooth but Granny's is wrinkled, illustrated by the old and young bark of trees. Another three-year-old grandchild was much taken with my white hair, studying its texture and lightness: I think he hoped it would taste like candyfloss.

Blanche, then a four-year-old great-grandchild, and her sister Ananias both took immense pleasure in the very name of "Great-Granny", and would always hail me in loud chorus with strong emphasis on the "great". Actually I came to suspect that Blanche thought great meant unutterably old — like Father William in *Alice*. At any rate, while interviewing her for a book about grandchildren, I asked her: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Blanche replied promptly: "I want to be a normal person." Surprised and highly amused, her mother and I assumed she must be echoing a grown-up phrase she had picked — but maybe she knew the meaning of "normal" all too well, especially in so far as it did not include the idea of extreme old age.

As for the now generally acclaimed magic that grandmothers of whatever age can work within the family, I heartily subscribe to its existence. For instance, our reminiscences can put their



Gathering of the clan: (back row, left to right) Orlando Fraser, Harry Pakenham, Richard Pakenham, Guy Pakenham; (middle row) Benjamin Fraser holding Eliza Fraser, Maria Pakenham, Rose Billington, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Flora Fraser, Eliza Chisholm; (front row) Hermione Pakenham holding Thomas Fraser, Atalanta Fitzgerald, Blanche Fitzgerald, Stella Powell-Jones holding William Fraser, Ben Pakenham and Dominic Pakenham

Photograph by Chris Harris

'I think he hoped my white hair would taste like candyfloss'

problems in perspective; but we must not overdo the "I remember", since teenage grandchildren in particular want to talk about themselves, and rightly so. At a certain stage, the young need as many confidantes as they can get.

I must end with a delightful reversal of roles. In my ninth year it is my grandchildren who help me, instead of vice versa.

"Granny, mind this step. Granry, I've done some shopping for you. Here are the jacket potatoes, soup, salad, smoked salmon (a special treat), grapes." After I tripped and fell on an uneven pavement, they all rallied round.

And my grandson-in-law turned up to cook our dinner: chops in a celestial sauce eaten to the accompaniment of tales from Moscow. Who would not be an antique granny with such compensations?

THE grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Elizabeth Longford are united in praise of her qualities and proud of her treasured role in the life of their family. In our brief opinion poll, this is what they had to say about her:

Orlando Fraser: "Her goodness shines out. She's always interested in whatever you are doing. She's simply glorious and adorable."

Harry Pakenham: "The thing that's special about her is her enthusiasm for people and life. It seems more typical of someone who is nine rather than 90. I hope I am as lucky in love as grandpa."

Richard Pakenham: "She gives equal love to all her grandchildren, whether she sees them once a

WHY MY GRANDMOTHER IS SO SPECIAL

week or every few months. There's no favouritism. And, even now, she still takes the children up the road to get sweets."

Guy Pakenham: "I have never met someone so interested in other people. I am about to get married and my fiancée was much more interested in granny than I. I thought granny would be in her. It turned out to be the other way round!"

Middle row, left to right
Benjamin Fraser: "She represents a golden age of grannies. She is so young at heart, so exciting and energetic. She also gives a very good impression of being immortal. She can communicate with all her grandchildren."

Rose Billington: "She has enormous energy and vibrancy, and amazing powers of concentration. She listens very carefully to what you say and always has an original and fascinating reply to hand. She doesn't just fling out comments left, right and centre."

Rebecca Fitzgerald: "She loves babies, adores children and spoils the tiniest things that only a besotted mother would notice. She is incredibly warm and celebratory."

and a thrilling person to talk to."

Flora Fraser: "She has a great enthusiasm for all her grandchildren's projects and a tremendous enthusiasm for all her descendants."

And the great-grandchildren ...
Ben Pakenham: (front row, second from right) "You can talk to her about any subject. She knows a lot about music which is good, because I play the trumpet. I think I am closer to her than my friends are to their grannies."

Hermione Pakenham: (front row, far left) "Granny joins in a lot of my school activities, like my poetry evening recently. She's quite active for her age and I love being with her."

ANJANA AHUJA

Giles Coren pays a visit to the Tate and discovers that the continentals do not share Hogarth's sense of humour



Detail from Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* shows the painter at far left

TATE GALLERY
FORGET Cézanne. The cognoscenti at the Tate Gallery these days are hanging around a picture painted 90 years before Paul was even a glimmer in his father's eye.

And it is an English picture, at that. William Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* has been the talking-point of the casual art world since interest in our cattle was renewed by the recent BSE panic. The Tate Gallery is told out chronologically, and it is in room two, at the dawn of great English painting, that one encounters Hogarth and his revolutionary canvases, overpopulated, political and, above all, comic.

"Here is a great side of roast beef," says a tour guide, "used to symbolise English superiority over the French at the time of the Jacobite unrest. Look how the French chef, buckles under the weight of it." She moves on to the next room to expound on Constable. But an elderly French gentleman loiters, suspicious, in the Hogarth enclosure.

"C'est pas du rosbif, ça," he says, scrutinising the meal. "C'est une côte de boeuf, bien sûr, mais c'est pas du rosbif."

HE IS bitter. For Hogarth, in the days before English beef lost its credibility, did not suffer Frenchies gladly. "Hogarth était... je sais pas le mot en français... eurosceptic," supplies another young lady, a blue-badge guide and student of art history at Birkbeck College.

She explains that in 1748 William Hogarth, while waiting for a ferry, decided to sketch the gate of Calais, which was emblazoned with English coats of arms, the port having been, until relatively recently, an English possession. But he was

arrested as a spy, on suspicion of making illegal sketches of the fortifications, and this painting was his revenge. He himself stands far left, with the hand of a gendarme tapping his shoulder.

The vast side of beef is on its way to an English pub, *Le Lion d'Argent*, to be consumed by the expatriates who stood for no fancy foreign rubbish in those glorious days of the Whig ascendancy.

While the English eat their magnificent beef, the poverty-stricken French can only ogle it. A fatted monk clearly covets it, too, symbolising the hypocrisy and greed of the French clergy.

"But look at the people's faces," says a middle-aged German tourist called Matthias Hauser. "They are clearly mad. They have all caught 'mad cow' disease, and the halberdier is telling

foreign paintings. Here, the beef is integral to English supremacy."

"Je mange pas ça, moi," says an old Frenchman. And several Gallic heads shake their concurrence.

The guide is unruffled. "The French have always laughed at this picture," she says. "The meat is more fatty and marbled than the cuts of today, but that is probably because it predates intensive farming, and is the way our beef would be now if it were not for selective breeding and hormone injections. What makes them laugh is the idea, BSE or no BSE, that the French should be depicted as covetous of any English cuisine at all."

When France went mad for British beef

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Matthew Parris



The Catholic Church is losing its grip in Latin America, to a faith that encourages the individual — at last

From this vantage point, the whole of the eastern part of Lake Titicaca lies stretched out at my feet. The sky and the lake seem to meet, glowing blue. The place feels enchanted. I am sitting on the flat roof of the *Residencial* of the Empire of the Sun, a tiny boarding house at the top of this village, which nestles beneath the ridge of the Island of the Sun. We are 1,000 ft above the lake.

The island is anciently sacred to the culture of the Andes. Pre-Incan empires believed their deities were born here. The Inca civilisation, conquering them, cannibalised discovered that *its* deity, the Sun himself, had come to Earth here, bridging Heaven and Earth and, in human form, founding the dynasty of the Incas.

Then the *Conquistadores* of the Incas, the Spaniards, announced that a wood carving of the Virgin Mary, carved by an Indian craftsman, was divinely inspired. The Catholics founded a great church just across the water from the island, at a village called Copacabana to honour this image of Mary. Later it became the Patron of Bolivia.

Crowds flocked to Copacabana to pray for blessings, and Christen their cars and lorries by the waters of the lake, to bring them luck on the roads. Intercessions for blessings take the form of laying at a hilltop altar small replicas of the bounties for which the supplicant hopes. The kiosks around the church sell Matchbox Mercedes, tiny model houses, and miniature American dollars to place there. The Catholic Church permits this, although it well knows that the ritual has roots in the pagan Indian custom of bringing miniatures to its own god of plenty.

But Catholicism in the Andes is fighting for its life. As a backpacking traveller, I blundered in apologetically to a subject which is doubtless much discussed in religious journals — and I shall surely err in some of my observations — but how many *Times* readers know that the Catholic Church may be dying on this continent, at least as the unchallenged force it has been for nearly four centuries?

Although this is Easter, there is little sign of religious observance on the Island of the Sun. Everywhere I go in the Andes I see churches neglected, empty, decaying. Even over the 15 years I have been coming here, the change has been very marked. I wonder whether any faith is declining quite as fast anywhere else in the world?

The Basilica San Francisco in La Paz, the ordinary people's favourite church, was overflowing 15 years ago. Today, although still the capital's busiest church, the Basilica is rarely full. Friends here tell me that the

Catholicism never challenged the subjugation of the individual to the many

So far from bludgeoning the peasants into new ways (as is often thoughtlessly alleged), the Church has preferred to leave their lifestyle alone, and gone with the grain of their old sins and ways. It has thus become a peasant religion.

Alcoholism is a terrific problem in the Andes, and the evangelicals — militant teetotalers — are challenging alcoholism as the Catholic Church never has. Coca-chewing has been a problem too. This is said to be on the decline in Bolivia, probably thanks to evangelical campaigns against the drug.

More than this, though,

the message of individual responsibility, dignity and pride, through the individual's unmediated approach to God, is enormously liberating and disciplining for a peasant people whose culture has repressed individuality and subjected them to the norms of the many. Catholicism never challenged this subjugation of the individual.

To put it crudely, the Catholic Church in the Andes has taken the wrong side. I think its condition may now be critical. Visitors to the Island of the Sun 50 years hence may hear of an evangelical miracle in this place, pursuant to the Catholic one, which was pursuant to the Inca miracle, itself pursuant to the ancient meeting here of Heaven and Earth.

African queen

WHEN President Mandela visits Britain in July, his escort may have a faraway look in her eye. For Rochelle Mitrara, the woman most often seen by his side since his separation from Winnie Mandela, is said to be in love. A "granddaughter" of Mandela, in the sense that she is part of his extended tribal family, she is currently in the United States visiting her paramour, the South African footballer, Doctor Khumalo.

Khumalo, a hero of South Africa's recent victory in the African Nations Cup, sent Miss Mitrara an air ticket to join him in the United States two weeks ago. She is still there, staying with him while he plays football for the Columbus Crew in Ohio.

The two make quite a couple. Miss Mitrara's position as Mandela's escort has made her something of a pin-up, as well as virtual royalty. Meanwhile, Khumalo's wholesome features and silky skills have made him one of South Africa's most marketable sportsmen. He can be seen frequently on television and beaming down from advertising hoardings with spoonfuls of cereal halfway to his mouth.



President's friend: Rochelle

Odd one out

EASTER brings rumblings at *The Catholic Herald*, home to some of the country's more thrusting Romans. The Editor, Cristina Odone, 36, an excitable blonde of Italian extraction who can often be found at the centre of a fawning crowd of liver-spotted old men, is said to be on the point of leaving. Odone, known as the Odd One, is set to take a sabbatical from the dizzying pace of the *Herald* very soon. She is not expected to return. Having raised the profile of her rag, she is said to want to concentrate on her sex-and-surprise novel-writing, following the modest success of her first book, *The Shrine*.

Blaired vision

WHILE Washington snoozes at the prospect of Tony Blair's visit this week, the excitement in Blair's London office is unbearable. It is not so much the issues being discussed that are causing the fuss

country "for personal reasons", and Khumalo is also keeping shh-hh on the matter. "I have met her on several occasions," he gurgles, "and know her from a distance."

As Peter Riddell explains above, Blair's tight coterie of advisers and spin-doctors closely matches the President's Staff. Both men have a penchant for youth, too. Where Blair has David Milliband, 30, and Tim Allen, 26, helping him with policy and the press respectively, Clinton has George Stephanopoulos, 34, doing both.

"Blair's people are obsessed with the Clinton team," says an observer, "and with the way so many of them, like Stephanopoulos, have achieved this sort of pop star status."

Do they remember, however,

DIARY

as the dribbling admiration that Blair's team are displaying for the pizza-eating, trainer-wearing aparatichicks of the White House. As Peter Riddell explains above, Blair's tight coterie of advisers and spin-doctors closely matches the President's Staff. Both men have a penchant for youth, too. Where Blair has David Milliband, 30, and Tim Allen, 26, helping him with policy and the press respectively, Clinton has George Stephanopoulos, 34, doing both.

"Blair's people are obsessed with the Clinton team," says an observer, "and with the way so many of them, like Stephanopoulos, have achieved this sort of pop star status."

Do they remember, however,

that one of the first ideas the Clinton campaign team offered Labour was the Sheffield rally which finished off Neil Kinnock's chances of beating John Major in 1992?

Quibbles, it seems. "It's actually very sweet," says one close to Blair's crew. "It's like Orpington Seconds visiting Manchester United for a training session."

When Blair hits New York this week, he may see some of the bumper stickers currently being distributed by Sidney Blumenthal, a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. Alongside the regular "Clinton/Gore '96" stickers are others

designed to irritate Bob Dole, the 72-year-old Republican candidate who is having trouble convincing the country that he has enough of the vital juices left in him to be President. Blumenthal's sticker reads simply: "Bob Dole is '96".

Foxed

ATTENTION all hunting folk: the British Field Sports Society needs you. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, recently appointed chief executive of the society, has been shocked by the apathy of his members. Last month he sent a round-robin to his 80,000 members asking for help in the campaign for country sports. Only 950 replies came back.

A plea for help in recruiting new members was even less of a success, with only 50 people bothering to reply. "That's not even 0.1 per cent," howls Hanbury-Tenison. "What are all the rest doing?"

With the infiltration and neutering of the anti-hunting RSPCA on his agenda, H-T has no time to rest. Calling all those who hunt but don't join the society "plain free-loaders", he has now harumphed off round the country to raise support by himself.

Swimmers at the Kensington New Pools in west London are excit-

presented to the leaders. The pessimists see these blunders, which amount to a basic failure to establish normal relations with China's neighbours, as typical signs of the end of a regime, the traditional disorder which has appeared at the end of every Chinese dynasty. Fewer people now think that there will be a benign transition from the present Leninist party rule to democracy as the younger group comes to power.

In the meantime, China's rapid economic development continues. After 1997, the Chinese regime in Hong Kong may do some damage to its wonderful money-making machine. International businesses have so far been remarkably willing to take the Joint Declaration on trust. That trust may be ending. The Chinese have already handled the future of Hong Kong in ways which have done great damage to public morale and confidence. The fear is now spreading to the international financial community. Yet Hong Kong has such momentum that it will take a long time to lose its attraction to investors, unless the new regime proves to be wholly perverse.

In the period before the Tiananmen Square killings, there was great world optimism about China's political development. Even after the massacre, it was widely believed that the repression was only an incident on China's journey to a more open society. In 1996, that confidence has been shaken by the mishandling of Hong Kong, by the continued oppression in the western territories and by the threat to Taiwan. All of China's neighbours, including India, have a feeling that the regime in Peking does not have a proper understanding of the world outside. The tragedy is that the world's goodwill is still there. China has been choosing to damage its own reputation: the rest of the world would like nothing better than to re-establish good relations.

The Chinese Government seems not to understand what Hong Kong, and the world, expect of it

The encircled dragon lashes out

Last week the North Korean incursions into the demilitarised zone heightened the feeling of tension which exists all around China's borders. No one knows what the real relations are now between the Chinese Government and the North Korean regime. In the recent past, on the nuclear issue, China has been a moderating influence. On this occasion, China may have been more willing to see North Korea add its might to the pressure on the United States which had already arisen over the American commitment to Taiwan.

When one looks at China's geopolitical position, it all seems a dangerous game, but one which is more probably being played from weakness than from strength. China exists inside a large box, with Russia and Mongolia to the north; Islam (in the form of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) to the west; India, Nepal, Burma and on to Vietnam in the south; and Taiwan, Japan and ultimately the United States to the east. All of these neighbours regard China with some anxiety and with increasing suspicion, although Pakistan is tied to China by a still greater fear of India.

There is an historic parallel, and it is not reassuring. In the early years of this century, the central powers of Europe — Germany and Austria — were surrounded by anxious neighbours. Russia, France, Italy and Great Britain felt themselves to be threatened by the Prussian Empire.

These Han Chinese have the best jobs, the old cultures and religions have been undermined, there are occasional minor nationalist riots. The Chinese have created a large nuclear test site at Lop Nur in Xinjiang, and have built large prison camps.

It is worrying for the people of Hong Kong and the people of Taiwan that China's rule of these remote western regions has been so insensitive and repressive, wholly concentrated on the short-term interests of the regime. Unforgivable environmental damage of a quite irreparable kind, has been done. The Hong Kong Chinese are increasingly fearful that the assurances of the Joint Declaration will prove meaningless for them, and that Hong Kong will be treated far worse as a Chinese colony after 1997 than it has been as a British one. The queues for passports may well indicate a further flight of capital, as well as of people.

The more critical Chinese observers are divided about the outlook. The optimists think that what has been going wrong has been caused simply by the gap between the Deng Xiaoping regime and the new regime of Jiang Zemin, which is still being established. In this sense, the *South China Morning Post* could still be regarded as among the optimists, treating the errors of policy as public relations blunders, compounded by the inadequacies of the information

William Rees-Mogg

which needs careful diplomacy by all parties. At present, Chinese diplomacy is irritable, bullying and overbearing.

China's relations with Islam are particularly sensitive. China is the colonial power in occupation of two vast but lightly populated western regions: Tibet, which is Buddhist, and Xinjiang, which is predominantly Islamic. These colonial areas make up about a fifth of China's land mass, but contain only about 2 per cent of the total population. Large populations of Han Chinese have been imported into both of these regions:

of November 1994. Mr Clinton has recently recovered by moving back to the centre and by sticking to a tough line on the budget with the Republican Congress.

Some of the problems of Mr Clinton's presidency stem from his personal flaws, or from Whitewater. But in so far as they do not, there are obvious lessons, which Mr Blair's team understand. First, be consistent. Gordon Brown determined to prevent his colleagues from making spending commitments, or even hinting at commitments, which can be used by the Tories as ammunition or which cannot be implemented in office. Mr Blair's decision to isolate Labour members this autumn on the party's draft manifesto is intended not only to gain the support of the whole party for the programme, but to show that it is coherent and achievable.

Labour's second lesson is to be disciplined. Mr Blair's operation is tightly and centrally run, to the irritation of many Labour MPs. The third is to have a clear plan for government. There is no danger that Mr Blair will sprawl to the left in Downing Street. But after being out of office for so long, his party must have clear priorities for legislation and action to prevent drift and to avoid being sidetracked into irrelevant rows.

The patchy record of the Clinton Administration, however, raises the question of whether there are weaknesses inherent in what the new Democrats and new Labour are trying to do, as well as in the implementation. It is all very well for Mr Blair to tell bankers and business men in New York that Labour has changed, that it is not trying to reverse Thatcherism that it favours free trade, enterprise and inward investment. But removing the fear of Labour is not the same as showing that it can really make a difference.

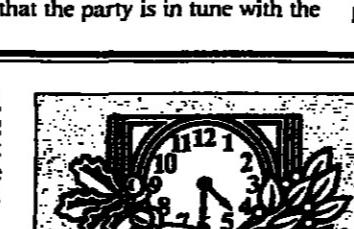
The Clinton Administration has not so far produced solid evidence that government can help to improve long-term economic performance by a partnership with business. Mr Clinton's new Democrats, as well as Mr Blair's new Labour, have yet to prove they can govern as successfully as they can campaign.



Making waves: Damon

about their latest fellow padler. Damon Albarn, lead singer of the pop group Blur, Albarn, who can regularly be seen louting his hair in shop windows down the Portobello Road, has set the women's changing room, and certain corners of the men's, alight by punishing his skinny frame with lengths in the pool. "Lots of women are not wearing their swimming caps any more," says my spy in the deep end. "They want to look their best just in case Damon swims into them."

P.H.S



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

values and aspirations of ordinary people. The same buzzwords recur on both sides of the Atlantic opportunity, responsibility, community, partnership. Mr Blair's catchphrase as Shadow Home Secretary — "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — was directly influenced by the rethinking of Mr Clinton's advisers. This approach has also emphasised the importance of symbolic actions to highlight change, such as the rewriting of Clause Four and Gordon Brown's repeated claims that Labour will not spend and tax for our own sake.

This campaign strategy took Mr Clinton to the White House, but it contained internally contradictory policies. It aimed to boost the

economy with an investment and training stimulus, while giving working people a tax cut, raising the taxes only of the very well-off, and taking action to cut the budget deficit. Not all of this could be achieved, and in office the Clinton Administration has been forced to drop the investment stimulus and make a priority of deficit reduction. The resulting budget package was impressive, but Mr Clinton did not receive much credit, since he failed to fulfil his other promises.

His most serious failing was inconsistency. After being elected as a "new" Democrat, he appeared to sprawl to the left in office, with rows over appointments and homosexuals in the military. Healthcare reform, his policy priority for his second year, went nowhere, and he surrendered the initiative to the Republicans, who triumphed in the mid-term elections

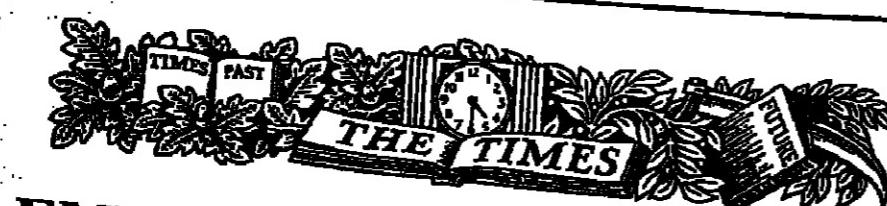
designed to irritate Bob Dole, the 72-year-old Republican candidate who is having trouble convincing the country that he has enough of the vital juices left in him to be President. Blumenthal's sticker reads simply: "Bob Dole is '96".

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JAY COOK

APRIL 8 1996

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



ENLISTING THE ALMIGHTY

Politics and piety do not mix in election campaigns

Since Tony Blair became leader, Labour has made an audacious success of claiming new converts. From the defection of the Conservative MP Alan Howarth to yesterday's report that his party is now more middle class than the Tories, Mr Blair has contrived to cast his net wider than other fishers of men. But one claim of support for new Labour may be as likely to insult as inspire.

In an otherwise thoughtful interview the Labour leader sought to sign up God for his own brand of Socialism. Mr Blair was careful to say his values rather than his policies were divinely inspired. But by seeking, however obliquely, to appropriate the Almighty's approval for his personal crusade Mr Blair is making a mistake.

In his interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* Mr Blair showed himself alive to the dangers of politicians creeping into the pulpit. He claimed: "I can't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves." After this spiritual health warning he spoke with intelligence and honesty about the importance of his faith. The British are often embarrassed by public discussion of private belief, but Mr Blair dealt delicately with the importance of Christianity in his inner life.

He faltered when he tried to justify his current politics. He argued: "My view of Christian values led me to oppose what I perceive to be the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism — particularly in its modern, more right-wing, form — represents." He argued that it was his theology that was the "essential reason why I am on the left rather than the right." He may have protested that "I do not believe that Christians should vote only Labour". But the impression from his other comments is that Christians can hardly vote Conservative.

Mr Blair is no stranger to arrogance and never slow to demonise his enemies, although seldom so literally. He once described his critics on the left as in need of therapy. Now he seems to be arguing that his opponents on the right require salvation. The implication of his remarks is that

sincere Christians who are Conservatives such as Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are either prepared to ignore their religious principles, or have not the character to put them into practice. Mr Blair's references to Pontius Pilate as the archetypal politician could not have been better chosen to suggest that those currently in authority are hypocritical and weak.

This is not the first time that Mr Blair has sought to enlist the Almighty. His last Labour conference speech was evangelical in tone and biblical in its rhetoric. His biographers have emphasised his churchgoing. He defended his choice of a grant-maintained school for his son on, among others, religious grounds. The depth of his beliefs does him credit. But his attempts to exploit them for political ends do not. Christian principles do not belong to any party.

If Mr Blair wishes to convert Conservatives he should rely on the strength of his policies, not a display of his piety. There is, however, one Bible lesson the Tories should bear in mind this Easter: they should take joy in sinners who repent. Dispatch of a dossier to Republicans in the US made up of past comments by Mr Blair and his wife, alleged to show them "anti-nuclear and anti-American", is unconvincing and unattractive. Opposition politicians abroad, by convention, do not attack their country's Government. The governing party should not stoop to this kind of attack on an opposition politician when he is visiting a friendly head of state.

Mr Blair may not have fought Labour's unilateralists with the vigour of some of his colleagues but he was never a stooge of the hard Left. Many of Labour's instincts are anti-American, but he is an admirer of the country and its President. Both parties would do the voters a service if they concentrated on justifying their programme for government instead of making unjustified attacks on their opponents' character.

AIR MAIL

The Post Office moves into the travel business

The nearest gateway to the outside world may soon be the Post Office. If an experiment in selling cheap airline tickets from one of London's biggest branches proves successful flights to Majorca, Berlin, New York and beyond may be departing from a counter near you. The Post Office, like other retailers with corporate sights set on the lucrative travel business, hopes that up to 600 of its outlets will soon be competing with high street bucket shops. Privatisation may no longer be an option for the Post Office; but there are now no limits on the government agency's appetite for free market competition.

The six-month trial at the Trafalgar Square office is a logical extension of the Post Office's growing involvement in travel. It already sells traveller's cheques, travel insurance, foreign currency and handles passport application forms. The plan is to sell cut-price tickets for seats unsold on scheduled airlines; there are no proposals to offer package holidays. This would not bring the Post Office into direct competition with travel agents which on the whole do not handle left-over seats. But airlines will benefit enormously: by definition, last-minute vacancies are not available for long, and if they are to sell they must be posted on a computer network that can reach millions of potential travellers quickly. The public, instead of having to search out backstreet shops with a fly-by-night reputation, will know where to look for bargains. The Post Office's solid reputation should dispel fears that such deals are unreliable.

There is still a risk — largely for the Post Office. Unless the plan is thoroughly rehearsed, the potential for a public relations disaster is enormous. Passengers who

buy such tickets may be the first to be bumped, should overbooking mask the real availability. The Post Office will be the first target of their ire. Post Office customers queuing to engage in such old-fashioned transactions as buying stamps or posting parcels will not restrain their patience if the pensioner ahead of them demands a trawl through the list of cheap flights to Bermuda. Unless this new business is clearly separated from core Post Office activities, it will bring not profit but brickbats.

Profit is already not in doubt. The Post Office is one of the great money-making branches of government. Over the next three years it will pay in £920 million to the Treasury. Turning around a loss-making industry was never the rationale for privatisation; indeed it was the success of the streamlined agency's components that roused even Conservative opposition to Michael Heseltine's plans — explained only in ideological terms — to sell its golden goose. The Post Office has already been imbued with the enterprise culture, so much so that Bill Cockburn, its former chief executive, was snatched in January by W.H. Smith to lend his expertise to the private sector.

Privatisation, however, would have been a signal for the Post Office, with its enviable reach into almost every British town and village, to exploit untrammeled its unique access and name recognition. Post Office Counters have not needed encouragement to go down this road. Already smaller branches are becoming all-purpose general stores. Adding new services is commercially as well as politically attractive. It lifts the horizons of this once stuffy institution well beyond the shores of Britain.

MAMPRUGIPUIGINABA

A Norfolk teacher puts on the robes of tribal office

To be anointed a tribal chief in northern Ghana is an honour as ancient and elaborate as it is colourful. Enthroned on sheepskin and woven cushions, draped in red and black robes, presented with a carved wooden stick, the recipient is blessed by elders and acclaimed by drums and ululating dancers. When such an honour is bestowed on a Norfolk schoolteacher who spends her professional life conducting sixth-form chemistry classes at Hethersett Old Hall, it is a joyful signal of an exceptional achievement by an exceptional woman. Lynne Symonds was yesterday granted a right never before given to a white woman: the title of Mamprugipuiginaba, meaning a chieftain of the Mamprusi tribe. She now has literally the power of life and death over her adopted subjects; but it is for her vital contribution to the tribe's life that she has been honoured.

Mrs Symonds has brought the priceless gift of learning to Wulugu, one of the most underdeveloped villages in northern Ghana. For the past year she has cajoled and persuaded British schools and well-wishers to raise enough money to build a well stocked library in Wulugu. Five students, as a result, have gained entrance to university. Now she is helping to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils. The villages have nothing with which to repay her except their

gratitude — and their ancestral honours. Most countries express gratitude to foreigners who establish a special rapport with their citizens or who perform the state some signal service. Churchill was an honorary American citizen. Eisenhower an honorary Londoner. George Bush and Caspar Weinberger can call themselves knights, though may not use the title; a handful of Britons can wear in their lapsels the ribbon of the Légion d'honneur. For an African country, however, to admit to the ranks of its revered elders a white woman from the nation of its former colonial rulers is more exotic and more flattering. The ceremonies and the circumstances may have a touch of Rider Haggard about them; but that only adds to the frisson of the occasion.

By presenting Mrs Symonds to the Nayiri, the Paramount Chief, the pupils and villagers of Wulugu have drawn international attention to what she has done. Her gifts of literature and science are, of course, keys to advancement for the impoverished. But the value lies in her personal engagement on behalf of her adopted village. Mrs Symonds is not a charity worker or a Unesco official; she is a teacher from an ordinary English village. Personal friendships bind and inspire more than any aid programme. To those who nourish such human links belong tribal honour and glory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Examination of Oxford's efficiency and ability to adapt

From Professor R. L. Smith

Sir, As a British-born academic who has just resigned a chair at Cambridge to return to the United States, I find myself very much in agreement with the criticisms of Oxford University made by Coopers & Lybrand (report, April 1), and am not convinced by the article ("In praise of useless knowledge").

It is not my experience that "there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum". As a result of changes introduced in the last two years, the engineering science degree has a new syllabus and a new structure, the physicists have brought in a new four-year course, and the university now offers brand new degrees in computation and in economics and management. The degree course on which I teach is vastly different from my own undergraduate course in the same department less than twenty years ago.

As for the Oxford which Roger Scruton describes, it is closer to the Oxford of fifty years ago than to the Oxford of today. "Scholars live side by side with their pupils," he writes. Very few dons nowadays live in college, and final-year options in the sciences are usually taught in small classes rather than tutorials.

There is much more to "efficiency" than mere cost calculations. It is not a matter of putting quantitative research goals above all else, as Scruton implies, but of getting on with the job we are paid to do — which is both teaching and research. Most of my Cambridge colleagues are highly conscientious and effective teachers, as well as top-quality researchers, but they are held back by the system.

Even college tutorials, so beloved by Professor Scruton, have many hidden costs. It is difficult to create a new course, or to make substantial changes to an existing one, without the agreement of a large number of college tutors or supervisors. Syllabi get stuck by date because they are so hard to change.

My only surprise about the Coopers & Lybrand report is that the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford had to hire outside consultants to find out what any reasonably well-travelled academic could have told him for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SMITH,

University of Cambridge,
Department of Pure Mathematics
and Mathematical Statistics,
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge.

From Dr Lionel Tarassenko

Sir, I fail to recognise the university in which I teach and do research in your

summary of the report from Coopers & Lybrand and especially in the article by Roger Scruton. I wonder how selective the management consultants were in their interviewing.

It is not my experience that "there is

no stimulus for change in the curriculum". As a result of changes introduced in the last two years, the engineering science degree has a new syllabus and a new structure, the physicists have brought in a new four-year course, and the university now offers brand new degrees in computation and in economics and management. The degree course on which I teach is vastly different from my own undergraduate course in the same department less than twenty years ago.

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lege tutors or supervisors. Syllabi get

stuck by date because they are so hard

to change.

To the real question for the Vice-Chan-

cellor's commission of inquiry is how

best to enhance our ability to carry out

world-class research whilst maintaining

our traditional strengths, in teach-

ing for example.

This goal, I believe, is attainable

provided that we allow faculties

enough independence to resolve the

problem in a way which is optimal for

their discipline.

Yours faithfully,

L. TARASSENKO,

University of Oxford,

Department of Engineering Science,

Parks Road, Oxford.

April 2.

From Mr Tim Dyson

Sir, Roger Scruton is so brilliantly

right after four "useless" years (1988-

92) reading Greats at Balliol, I have

been impressed by him by the Soviet

Union.

As I thought my affectionate and

respectful article made clear, he was a

brave and honourable man who risked

his life in the struggle against Nazism.

He misjudged the nature of Stalini-

smism at a time when many others did

so. He gradually broke with the Com-

intern and with the Communists Party

of Great Britain after the Nazi-Soviet

Treaty of 1939. Subsequently, as a trade

union general secretary, he was active in

the postwar purging of communists from the London Trades Council, one of the crucial moments in the Cold War struggle to ensure that the British trade union movement did not fall under communist control.

To describe him as a "traitor" is a

grotesque travesty of my article, my

beliefs — and of the evidence. And to

draw parallels between my position

and that of the children of Germans who gassed Jews is stupid, offensive

and inaccurate. It is equally offensive and inaccurate to suggest that I might have considered suicide on discovery of my father's role.

Far from going to my grave with my

father's brand on my heart, as Levin writes, I will go to my grave proud to have been his son and proud of his record.

Yours etc,

JOHN TORODE,

25 Mat's Lane, SW3.

April 7.

Newspaper records

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, I recently sought to identify an undated and unnamed newspaper cutting given me by an old comrade

about important actions in which the Wessex reconnaissance regiment had been involved during 1945, and which

I needed to identify for regimental

archives. My inquiries revealed that

a number of West Country newspapers

some — no names, no pack drill — had no records before 1950.

In spite of considerable help kindly

given freely by the Gloucestershire

and Avon library services, I had no

option but to follow their advice and

search in the British Newspaper Library

at Colindale, northwest London.

Fortunately my wife and I were able to

visit successfully in one day, which

might have been impossible (or very

expensive) for someone having to trav-



COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE, St JAMES'S PALACE
April 6: The Duchess of Kent, as Guest of Honour, this afternoon attended the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race, commencing at the Embankment, Putney, London SW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will be briefed on repairs to the North Bridge at the viewing area adjacent to the North Candler, North Queensferry, at 10.20; as President of the Prince's Trust, will visit The Kirkcaldy Foyer, Bridge Street, Kirkcaldy, at 11.10; as President of Scottish Business in the Community, will visit the Tryst Community Centre, Abbeyview Estate, Dunfermline, at 12.30; and will visit Culross at 2.00.

Birthdays

Mr Tony Banks, MP, 53; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 52; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 30; Sir Andrew Bowden, MP, 66; General Sir Anthony Farquhar-Hockley, 72; Lord Grantham, 45; Mr J.P. Kavanagh, racehorse trainer, 53; Mr Harold Lightman, QC, 90; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 91; Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 66; Mr W. Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, 53; Mr Peter Rogers, chief executive, ITC, 55; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 77; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 33; Sir Thomas Thomson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 73; Miss Dorothy Tutin, actress, 65; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 55.

Church of Scotland

Appointments
Ordinations and inductions
The Rev Neil Gow to Blair Atholl and Sirian.
The Rev David Plaketh to St Andrew's, Peterhead.
The Rev Andrew J. Philip to St Enoch's, Hogback, Glasgow.
The Rev Pauline Steenbergen to St Luke's and Queen Street, Broughty Ferry.
Ordination and introduction
The Rev Elizabeth J. Ross to part-time assistant Jubilee Church at Holburn West Church.
Inductions
The Rev Adrian J. T. Rennie to Draylaw, Edinburgh.
The Rev Trevor Williams to St Peter's, Peterculter, Aberdeen.
Translations
The Rev J Christopher Ledgard from Bayndle with Ordiquhill & Cornhill to Upper Donside.

Nature notes

THE first swallows are back from South Africa. They are light, elegant flyers, bypassing each other over rivers and lakes in pursuit of flying insects. Some house-martins have also been seen, but most of them will arrive towards the end of the month. Their numbers were down in the last two years, and many householders are hoping they will return to build under their eaves again this year. Chiffchaffs have now arrived in most parts of Britain and are singing their clinking song high in the woods.

White-spotted bluethroats have been reported on the East Coast, and one was blown by the east winds into Hertfordshire at the weekend. They are sprightly, robin-like birds with a blue breast and a white patch in the centre of it. A few



Chiffchaff: clinking song

pass up the coast in most springs, but they do not stay to breed.

Leaves are still reluctant to appear on the trees. On ash trees there are purple clusters of flowers around the black leaf-buds. The long catkins on aspen trees are already crumpling. The first queen bumblebees are out, buzzing along the hedgerows: they were fertilised when they were young last autumn.

DJM

**BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

Can you not see that as long as there is jealousy and strife among you, you are unsatisfactory living on the purely material plane?
1 Corintians 3 : 3 OREB

DEATHS

EDWARDS - April 5th 1996
Miss Dorothy, 82 years of Balcombe, West Sussex, widow of John Hawlett Haworth and mother of Paul Haworth and Peter, much loved mother in law and grandmother. Funeral service at St. James' W/Sussex Crematorium, 2.15 pm, Friday 12th April. Please send donations if desired to Cancer Research Fund, 100 New Cavendish Street, London WC1A 1GA.

ELMHURST - Alfred Octavius (Pom), much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Died at Hounds Hill on 3rd April 1996 aged 94. Having done his best to secure a memorial service will be held at Worsbrough Parish Church at 2 pm 10th May. In memory of him flowers please to The Cooper & Worsbrough Relief in Sickness Fund c/o Elmhurst & Sons Solicitors, 17/19 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2HD.

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EWAPP (management Services) Ltd require properties in suitable towns in west London for new lettings applicants. Tel: 0171 243 0964.



Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, leaving the Deanery yesterday ahead of Prince William and Captain Timothy Laurence after the Royal Family had attended the Easter Day service at St George's Chapel, Windsor

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, 1783; Dionysius Solomos, poet, Zante, Greece, 1798; Sir Arthur Streeton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867; Harvey Cushing, neurosurgeon, Cleveland, Ohio, 1869; Albert I, King of the Belgians, 1909-34, Brussels, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1889; Mary Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1893; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1912.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Elisha Otis, pioneer of safety lift, Yonkers, New York, 1861; Erik Karlfeldt, poet, posthumous Nobel laureate, 1931, Stockholm, 1931; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mougins, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, New York, 1981.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship Great Western sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838.

King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939.

The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Lord Daimon, Lord Tombs and the Archbishop of Glasgow have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The following have been elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh:

Colin Kerr Ballantine, Professor of Physical Geography, University of St Andrews; Stephen Mark Barnett, Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics & Applied Physics, University of Strathclyde; Anthony John Harmer, Honorary Professor, University of Edinburgh. Non-clinical Scientist, MRC Brain Metabolism Unit, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Ronald Thomas Hay, Professor of Molecular Biology, University of St Andrews; Graeme Robertson Dawson Catto, Professor, Vice-Principal & Dean of Faculty of Medicine & Dental Sciences, University of Aberdeen.

Ian William Drummond Datzel, Professor and Senior Research Scientist, Institute of Geophysics, University of Texas; Sir Graeme (John) Davies, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Glasgow; John Barry Dent, Professor, Institute of Ecology and Resource Management, University of Edinburgh; R. Antony Duff, Professor of Philosophy, University of Stirling; Christopher Ernest Fay, Chairman and Chief Executive, Shell UK, London; Ian Fells, Professor of Energy Conversion, Department of Chemical and Process

Engineering, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Thomas Douglas Macphail Gifford, Reader, Department of Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow; Ian James Graham-Bryce, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde; Sheila Ann Manson McLean, Director, Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine, University of Glasgow; James Francis McMillan, Professor of European History, University of Strathclyde; Alan Miller, Professor of Semiconductor Physics, University of St Andrews; Stewart Crichton Miller, Director, Engineering & Technology, Rolls-Royce, Derby; Christopher David Morris, Professor and Head of Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow; James McDonald Strachan Hutchison, Reader in Biomedical Physics, University of Aberdeen.

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Robert Winston, Keith Odoni,

Professor of Mathematics, Mathematics Department, University of Glasgow; Alan Alexander Paterson, Professor of Law, The Law School, University of Strathclyde; Peter Nicholas Purser, Professor of Physics, University of Edinburgh; Lovat Victor Charles Rees, Honorary Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; John Stuart Richardson, Professor of Classics, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Provost of Faculty Group of Arts, Divinity and Music, University of Edinburgh; Frederick William Rimmer, Emeritus Professor of Music, University of Glasgow; John Joseph Robinson, Senior Scientist in Animal Reproduction, Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen; Michael Derek Rugg, Professor of Psychology, University of Aberdeen.

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THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

NEWS

Labour to target hereditary peers

■ Labour is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers, whom he described as "Tory voting fodder", and party workers are considering bringing in a Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of government.....Page 1

Teenagers' writing skills in decline

■ A significant slide in teenagers' writing skills since 1980 has been revealed by a unique comparison of English O-level scripts with GCSE examination papers. Researchers concluded that candidates who clearly failed O level would now be receiving a grade C or better at GCSE English, said to be the equivalent of an O-level pass.....Page 1

Ulster 'faces war'

Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, told a Sinn Fein and IRA rally, that Northern Ireland faced a war situation.....Page 2

Cleric backs Blair

A senior churchman publicly threw his support behind Tony Blair after the Labour leader enraged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and suggested the Bible had taught him he could never be a Tory.....Page 2

Windsor roundup

Members of the Royal Family, including the Queen, helped police and the Household Cavalry to recover 75 polo ponies stampeded by a late-night fire near Windsor Castle.....Page 3

Prayers for victim

Prayers were said in Serb Orthodox churches across Britain for Stevan Popovic, 74, who died after being mugged.....Page 3

Blunkett triumph

David Blunkett made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers.....Page 4

Tower mystery

A 60-year-old mystery involving high treason and sexual obsession may be solved with the release of government papers about Norman Baillie-Stewart, the last Briton imprisoned in the Tower.....Page 5

RAF's new recruits are failing to shine

■ The RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, officers fear. Young officers, once so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem Boys, now speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom. Latest officer-training recruits are to be schooled in life's finer points — by order of the Air Chief Marshal.....Page 1



Yeoman Warders taking part in the Tower of London's State Parade yesterday in which they escort the Governor to the chapel

BUSINESS

Special delivery: The Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches.....Page 36

Back home: Peter Robinson, ousted chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has returned to his Kent home, where he promised to continue his defence against allegations of abuse of company facilities.....Page 36

Wall Street worry: US financial markets are braced for significant initial losses as traders have the first chance to react to Friday's stronger-than-expected employment figures showing 140,000 jobs were created outside the farm sector last month.....Page 36

Arms swap denial: President Chirac was embroiled in controversy after French television said he had sanctioned weapons sales to Bosnian Serbs to free two pilots.....Page 8

Unabomber clue: A prover's strange rendition provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, 53, is America's most wanted man.....Page 8

French protest: Doctors' surgeries in France will shut for a day in protest at the Prime Minister's plans to cut welfare spending.....Page 9

National traffic and roadworks: National traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

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ARTS

Veteran rocker: As his Shepherds Bush gig proved, Lou Reed may be 54 years old, but he has still got his finger on the rock'n'roll pulse.....Page 10

Musical comeback: Denny Laine, Paul McCartney's old partner, is attempting to reignite his career, which has been in limbo since he left Wings.....Page 10

Parting shots: Andy Lavender goes behind the scenes to watch the editing of Dennis Potter's final two television dramas — *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*.....Page 11

Bad to worse: First came the film, *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, voted the worst movie of all time. Now comes the stage musical, but will it make it to the West End?.....Page 12

Helping hand: As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of an extended family.....Page 13

Magnificent beef: On a visit to the Tate, Giles Coren discovers continental do not share Hogarth's sense of humour.....Page 13

MIND AND MATTER:

Feminist's Last Theorem: The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, Marcus du Sautoy writes.....Page 12

Gene race: Why is it when British scientists make a breakthrough in genetics, other countries made the most of the commercial prospects, asks Nigel Hawkes.....Page 12

Rowing: Oxford rowing may be facing a long-term crisis after the crew were beaten so decisively by a Cambridge squad.....Page 21

Scottish Cup: Rangers qualified to meet Heart of Midlothian in the final of the cup by beating Celtic 2-1 at Hampden Park, so keeping alive their hopes of a cup and league double.....Page 22

Equestrian: William Fox-Pitt enhanced his chances of making the Great Britain team for the Olympic Games when he won his section of the Brigstock horse trials.....Page 21

LETTERS:

Oxford's efficiency: laws on island of Sark: John Torode answers letter: Cairngorm funicular.....Page 16

INDIGNATION: Indignation is not an adequate response to the obscene profanity and blasphemy perpetrated by a group of Polish skinheads at Auschwitz, on the very eve of Easter.

La Repubblica

TONIGHT:

FEATURES

Motor sport: Damon Hill led from the start to take the Argentine Grand Prix, his fourth Formula One win in succession. Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams teammate was runner-up.....Page 19

Football: Manchester United emerged stirred but not shaken from a splendid encounter after beating their city rivals to confirm their position at the head of the FA Carling Premiership.....Page 23

Scottish Cup: Rangers qualified to meet Heart of Midlothian in the final of the cup by beating Celtic 2-1 at Hampden Park, so keeping alive their hopes of a cup and league double.....Page 14

PETER RIDDELL:

Tony Blair can learn a lot from Bill Clinton — about how to win elections and about how not to govern.....Page 14

LOTTERY NUMBERS:

1, 4, 6, 14, 17, 38. Bonus: 9. Five ticket holders share the jackpot, each winning £4.2 million.

INDIGNATION:

Greer Garson, actress; Gordon Clough, radio journalist; Barry Ewell, Olympic sprinter.....Page 17

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IN THE TIMES

EMPIRE ART: Images of Victorians in Africa: Thomas Baines and others in a new London show

LAW: Nuisance and noise: councils receive 300 complaints a day about loud neighbours

ROADWATCH

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